



# THE INDEPENDENT

Tuesday 16 September 1997

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## TODAY'S NEWS

### Sinn Fein sit down

Multi-party talks finally opened at Stormont in Northern Ireland yesterday, with Sinn Fein at the negotiating table. But, following a very unhelpful statement from the IRA last week, the unionist parties were not present. David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, sat munching rolls and soup in a Belfast café as the pressure mounted on him to turn up and talk. Despite that, both the British and Irish governments have high hopes that the Protestants will enter the negotiations soon – perhaps even as early as today. That would mark an historic first, bringing the two sides together at last. David McKittrick reports on page 8

### Royal reform agenda

The experiences of the Royal Family since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, have provoked discussions at Buckingham Palace about lessons that need to be learned. As the palace hit back in an unusually strongly worded statement refuting a series of stories about its handling of the funeral, a spokesman admitted that the monarchy would have to adapt. Full story, page 3

### Killer wasps at large

Species of insects lured north by climate change are spreading across Britain. They include particularly nasty varieties of wasp and hornets, which have been making people's lives a misery this summer. Page 14

### Benazir hunted

Switzerland has frozen bank accounts held there by Benazir Bhutto and her family, at the request of the Pakistan government. This is the most dramatic move in a campaign waged against the former Prime Minister by her opponents who allege that she was involved in massive corruption. Page 11

### SEEN & HEARD

Radio 3 is fed up with the cold and flu season disturbing its recordings of classical concerts, so in order to guarantee perfect silence this autumn it is giving out cough sweets to the audiences in concert halls. The radio station has developed its own brand of strong cough sweets which will be given out by dispensers in dozens of concert halls, including the Royal Festival Hall and the Symphony Hall in Birmingham. The BBC has even gone to the lengths of producing a rustle-free wrapper for the sweets to ensure that the listener at home knows nothing of the audience's sucking habits. A BBC spokeswoman denied that asthma inhalers will be tried if the sweets don't work.

## Blair: My vision for the year 2000



Tony Blair: "We've been given a huge opportunity, and it is a huge responsibility to make the most of it"

Photograph: Brian Harris

Tony Blair last night committed himself to an ambitious programme to rid Britain of the underclass he inherited in May. In an interview with *The Independent* he warned of more tough decisions ahead on the Welfare State, and indicated that private companies could be involved in his reforms of it.

Our Political Editor reports on the Prime Minister's new "test for the millennium" and his post-election programme, to be unveiled at this month's Labour conference.

An ambitious three-pronged programme to "create a country that can hold its head high as the model of what a 21st-Century developed nation should be," was last night outlined by the Prime Minister.

Speaking from Chequers, Mr Blair said the three key elements, which will be used to focus the Labour conference later this month, were a competitive economy built not on low wages, but high skills, and the creativity of a well-educated workforce; a society "where we are getting rid of this idea of an underclass, a set of people apart from the rest of society"; and an end to the years of Conservative isolationism in world affairs.

Mr Blair said: "All those things are achievable. It is possible for us to create a country of greater opportunity, provided we set aside some of the problems we have had in the past and provided the Labour Party and the Labour Government is concentrated on addressing the real concerns of people, rather than slipping backwards."

But he warned that there were hard choices ahead. The Government had already taken tough action on the economy, giving the Bank of England independence to set interest rates, and by cutting the budget deficit, national debt and public borrowing. No decisions had yet been taken on reform of the Welfare State, but he added: "The basic principle is that the role of government is to organise proper levels of social provision.

"Some may be done directly through the private sector, some through the public sector, some may be done by a combination of public-private sector."

"I don't think anyone seriously believes that pension provision in the future is going to be the preserve solely of the public sector. It isn't. And there are other areas where we've got to make sense of the modern world."

Mr Blair cited the position taken by the Government on student finance – "Another very good example of that which is a difficult and hard decision."

He said: "The only way we are going to get additional resources into the university system and allow larger numbers of students is if we change the system of finance, where the state will provide a fair framework."

The Prime Minister would not be

BY ANTHONY  
BEVINS

drawn on the application of those principles to other areas of welfare – like the burgeoning bill for disability benefits – but Government sources argue that part of Labour's current popularity is built on the public recognition that a sound foundation is being made for the future.

There is also a strong element of the Prime Minister making use of the unique political scene – a combination of a landslide majority in May, a new deal of co-operation with the Liberal Democrats, who attend their first meeting of the "Lab-Dem" Cabinet committee on constitutional reform tomorrow, and the continuing turmoil in the Tory ranks.

With the defection of former MP Hugh Dykes in yesterday's headlines, leading figures like Lord Tebbit questioning William Hague's experience, and Kenneth Clarke appealing for an end to "carping", the new Conservative leader last night delivered a hastily arranged

speech to party activists in an attempt to get a grip on his party.

But Mr Blair told *The Independent*: "The Conservatives still haven't decided what type of political party they are. But for a large part of the party, however, they see it drifting further and further to the Right, and there will be a lot of One Nation Tories who are dissatisfied."

"They have carried on in a situation where they still will not choose between the wish to carry on with the policies of the 1980s and Thatcherism, or whether they wish to return to the centre-ground, and they have not decided that."

"But most of the direction appears to be moving to the Right, and that is the dominant strain of the Tory party. Well, I think a lot of the One Nation Conservatives will not feel that their place any longer is in the Conservative Party."

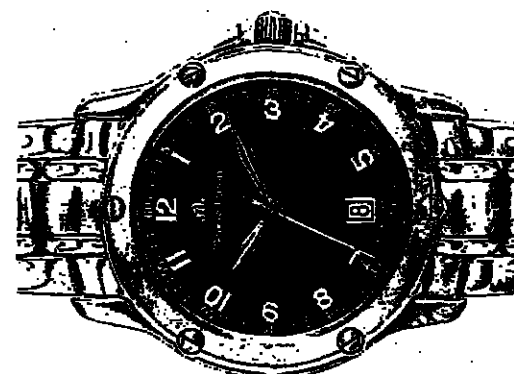
A senior Labour Party source suggested earlier that there could be further defections afoot. "Watch this space," he said.

But Mr Blair said that the Tories should not be under-estimated. "I do not write them off in any shape or form," he said. "The difficulty for them is that they don't have clear direction and until they get that clear direction..." As for his own position, Mr Blair said that considerable strides had been made towards the delivery of Labour's manifesto pledges on education, health, employment, and law and order – "given that we've only been in government, what, five months."

That did not mean that he was resting on his laurels. "I believe we are doing a good job. But I am not complacent about it and I think it's very important that there is a sense of humility in the Government, too. That we recognise that we've been given a huge opportunity, and it is a huge responsibility to make the most of it."



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# 3/ROYALS BESIEGED

THE INDEPENDENT  
TUESDAY  
16 SEPTEMBER 1997

## Sources close to Kitty Kelley reveal it's all a lot of tittle-tattle

Kitty Kelley, the controversial American biographer, will set the world gossiping this week about the loves and private lives of the Royal Family. But is it all tawdry hype rehashing ancient and unproven gossip? Paul McCann talks to some of the people cited as "sources".

The veracity of the Kelley muck-raking book *The Royals* crumbled yesterday after her named sources emerged as professional gossips, left-wing republican journalists or were simply dead.

Much of the information in the book is attributed to "confidential sources" in the royal household, but many of those who are named denied yesterday providing Ms Kelley with any useful information while others turned out to be the third-hand reminiscences of dead aristocrats.

The Duke of Leeds, who is the source of very intimate details of the Queen's early married years, actually died in 1964. Instead his testimony is reported third-hand through Nigel Dempster, the *Daily Mail* gossip columnist, who is married to the Duke's daughter.

Indeed the book's index reads like a who's who of Britain's highest-paid gossips and includes Ross Benson of the *Express*, Peter McKay of the *Daily Mail* and Taki, columnist at the *Spectator*.

Dame Barbara Cartland, the romantic novelist, is quoted as the source of information on Earl Mountbatten and Prince Charles, but she denied ever having met, spoken to or corresponded with Kitty Kelley. "My secretary told me she wasn't safe," said Dame Barbara yesterday.

"So she wouldn't let me speak to her." A close reading of *The Royals* reveals that Dame Barbara's information is in fact lifted from an old interview.

Michael Cole, the former BBC court correspondent and spokesman for Mohamed Al Fayed, refused to help Ms Kelley yet found himself in the book as the source of a quote by Andrew Morton, writer of *Diana: Her True Story*. In fact Mr Cole's quote was lifted from a letter he wrote to *The Independent* in 1992. "It rather indi-

cates the essence of the techniques that have been used," said Mr Cole yesterday.

The provenance of other material may be difficult to ever substantiate. John Barratt, former private secretary to Earl Mountbatten, is quoted on the Royal Family's alleged parsimony. Mr Barratt died in 1993 just when Ms Kelley started her research.

Some of the less "establishment" sources named in the book include Rosie Boycott, editor of the *Independent on Sunday*, the writer Christopher Hitchens and Ian Hislop, editor of *Private Eye*.

"I told her zip," said Mr Hislop yesterday. "She came to one *Private Eye* lunch, she got an indifferent steak above the Coach and Horses in Soho and that was it."

"I am not in the business of giving other people stories and I am not an intimate of the royal great and good. Rather I was interested to find out what she had. She didn't tell me."

Ms Boycott said yesterday that Ms Kelley's choice of informants seemed wide: "If she's quoting me as a source it makes one shudder to think about the quality of her sources. I've only heard the same codswallop that the world has heard. I met her twice and suggested she talk to a friend who told her nothing."

"I think she found it very difficult to get information here compared to in the US where everyone eventually gave in to her. It just didn't work like that here which is why the book was extended beyond just Prince Philip."

However, Christopher Hitchens, who is based in Washington DC and has read the book, believes it has some merit: "It is the best single account of how their reputation got to the state it is in now. It contains at least a mention of everything you've ever heard. It's all in there and there is also some added value. Some rumours she chases down and disproves, others she makes a good case for."

Despite the lack of named royal sources Ms Kelley's reputation for conducting massive research means each book contains some great stories. No one has yet sued Ms Kelley for claiming Nancy Reagan dominated her husband and had an affair with Frank Sinatra in the White House. A story missed by the rest of the world's press.



Dame Barbara Cartland: 'I didn't speak to her'. The Duke of Leeds: Has been dead for 33 years



Kitty Kelley: Despite the lack of named royal sources her reputation for massive research means each of her books contains some great stories. None of her subjects has sued her. Photograph: Colorific



Rosie Boycott: 'I told her to speak to a friend'



## Tears – and just a tinge of regret

She's written a book full of deceit, greed, sexual dalliance and general dysfunction. But Kitty Kelley is feeling a touch of remorse as her biography of the Windsor dynasty hits bookshops in America tomorrow. Review copy in hand, David Osborne understands her embarrassment.

The American biographer who spent four years trawling London for sleazy morsels on the myriad tribulations of the Windsors is voicing regret. Sort of.

Kitty Kelley, whose tome, *The Royals*, will not be published in Britain, tearfully told a television interviewer last night that she had asked for a delay in publication. Out of respect for Diana, the Princess of

Wales. The book, which amounts to a 500-page chronology of the serial crises, most of them already well-known, to have afflicted the Royal Family over 80 years since the First World War, is being released one week early by its publisher, Warner Books, because of the heightened public interest in the Royals.

"I feel awkward about coming out with the book right now," Ms Kelley told the NBC news magazine, *Dateline*. "I'm absolutely wrought by the Princess's death. And I wish I weren't coming out with the book now."

According to a transcript obtained before the interview's broadcast, Ms Kelley continued: "It just seemed a powerful book. It can wait. The publishers argument was people need to know this. They're hungry for information."

So laden is the book with tales of deceit, greed, sexual dalliance and general dysfunction that passages concerned with

Diana seem almost tame. More certain of public attention – and of distress inside the Palace – are sections offering stories less well known about the Windsors themselves.

Almost at the book's opening comes the much anticipated revelation that the Queen and Princess Margaret were brought into the world with the assistance of artificial insemination. King George VI, according to Ms Kelley, had trouble in the stud department.

Sex, unsurprisingly, is the ingredient that runs through the book and which guarantees it its shock value. Well-rehearsed in these pages, are the departures from fidelity of Prince Charles (Camilla), Diana (Hewitt) and Sarah Ferguson (Bryan).

There is hardly a member of the Royal Family, of any generation, whose fidelity is not questioned by Kelley and the Queen's marriage to Prince Philip and the Queen is stripped bare.

The Queen herself is unlikely, mean-

while, to appreciate Ms Kelley's portrayal of her as a cold and distant mother. The author quotes the Queen Mother telling someone at a dinner party that the perception that Prince Philip had been the beastly parent to Charles was wrong. "If they only knew the truth," she allegedly said. "It was always Lilibet who was too strict and Philip who tried to moderate her."

The book, particularly its conclusion, is inevitably coloured by the Diana tragedy that came after its dispatch to the printers.

Especially poignant is the claim that the Queen has found it too painful seriously to contemplate plans, codenamed Operation Lion, for dealing with the death of the Queen Mother.

But she apparently had made it clear that any funeral should be special indeed, culminating in a service and eulogies in Westminster Abbey.

That funeral, of course, has now happened. But it was not the Queen Mother's.

## Palace hits back at series of inaccurate stories

Rumours of rifts and splits within the Royal Family have kept the media busy since the death of the Princess of Wales.

But, as Jojo Moyes reports, "The Firm" is fighting back.

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, has prompted Buckingham Palace and Prince Charles's advisers to begin discussions over reforms to the monarchy.

In a strongly worded statement, the palace hit back at "inaccurate stories" about its handling of the funeral and reiterated the Queen's stated view that there were lessons to be drawn from the Princess's death and the public reaction to it.

The statement warned against speculating about what form the changes might take.

"That process ... is not helped for the Royal Family or anyone else by unfounded speculation. As for lessons for the palace, the Queen's advisers are of course working closely with the Prince of Wales's office," a spokesman said.

The Prince of Wales has long encouraged debate about the reform of the monarchy through his Way Forward group, comprising the Royal Family and immediate staff, which meets twice a year.

He is understood to have advocated such measures as cutting the size of the official HRH-styled Royal Family, allowing first-born daughters to succeed the throne, and ending the ban on marrying Roman Catholics.

But a spokesman said yesterday that the discussions relating to the Princess's death were "a different thing", and not something that would necessarily be



Prince Charles: Encouraged debate

discussed by the Way Forward group.

Either way, a survey in the *Daily Telegraph* last week underlined the need for reform. When asked whether the monarchy needed to change, 71 per cent of those polled agreed, compared with 54 per cent in 1994.

Calls for reform were strengthened by the apparent inability of the palace to be seen to respond effectively to the mood of national mourning. Reports yesterday suggested that this was due to a public relations failure, rather than a failure of the

palace itself. Perhaps in light of this, the palace used an unusually strong and comprehensive statement yesterday to scotch "speculation and inaccurate stories" of rifts within the palace in the days surrounding her funeral.

"These stories need to be corrected," the statement said, and went on to refute those that had "gained currency" in recent days.

"Stories of disputes between the Royal Family and the Spencer family are false. The funeral arrangements were made in less than a week. Inevitably there were some minor differences over points of detail but these were swiftly and amicably resolved," it read.

"The Queen took decisions in close consultation with the Prince of Wales at Balmoral. Her advisers were in close touch with those of the Prince of Wales and the Prime Minister."

"Suggestions that pressure had to be exerted on the Queen by anyone, including the Prince of Wales, are false. Stories of disagreements and heated conversations between the Prince of Wales and Sir Robert Fellowes (the Queen's private secretary) are equally false."

Although a palace spokesman declined the name specific reports to which it referred, the latter two refutations are believed to refer to claims made Jon Snow on *Channel 4 News*.

It claimed that Prince Charles had a blazing row with Sir Robert Fellowes, in which Sir Robert was told to "impale himself on his own flagstaff".

It also claimed that Tony Blair had to act as an intermediary between the Royal Family and the Spencers, saying that the Queen had requested that Diana have a low-key, private funeral.

"These stories are the direct opposite of the truth," the palace spokesman said.

## Demand outstrips supply for tribute record

Demand for the Elton John song "Candle in the Wind" continued to outstrip supply yesterday as the number of copies pressed and distributed worldwide reached eight million.

The single, which set a record by reaching the top of the British charts on its first day of sale, was disappearing off shelves as fast as stock arrived.

It also became the first-ever single to

go on sale in Israel. Until now the country's relatively small music-buying population meant singles were not viable and the music market was exclusively albums.

But music industry executives decided that the tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, which is tipped to become the biggest-selling single of all time, was so big that its people should also be given the chance to buy it.

Mercury Records said manufacturers have now pressed enough copies to meet Britain's 1.5 million advance orders – but the re-orders have started to roll in. More singles will be manufactured and shipped today.

Elton John himself has refused to take the credit for the demand and vowed never to perform the song again because it would be "milking" the tragedy.

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## The nine worst prisons are named



Holloway jail: Inspectors found an atmosphere of 'intimidation and violence'

The nine worst jails in England and Wales have been identified and for the first time named. Tightening budgets and overcrowding are pushing the prison system into a deeper malaise.

Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, reports.

A series of walk-outs and damning reports by inspectors and officials has forced the Prison Service to take urgent action to improve conditions at nine jails.

The prisons have been singled out as needing special managerial attention following a range of criticisms including neglect, chronic staff shortages, and impoverished regimes.

Three of the jails are for young offenders aged under 21, three are a mix of men and women, two are for male criminals and the remaining one is for women.

The nine have been selected from the 135 jails in England and Wales, but the full list has not been published before.

Prison officers have long warned that the jails are rapidly deteriorating and in need of further investment and additional staff. Soaring prison numbers, which have topped the record 62,000 mark, and a clampdown on spending have placed

### THE BLACKLIST

**Burton:** Secure category B male prison, Lowestoft, Suffolk.  
**Bullwood Hall:** Young offenders' institution for females in Hockley, Essex.  
**Chelmsford:** For convicted and unconvicted male adults and young offenders in Essex.  
**Glen Parva:** Young offenders' institution for males in Wigston, Leicestershire.  
**Hindley:** Remand centre for male young offenders aged under 21 near Wigan, Lancashire.  
**Holloway:** Women's jail in North London.  
**Low Newton:** Remand centre for men and women near Durham.  
**Risley:** Low-risk category C prison for men and women in Warrington, Cheshire.  
**Wellingborough:** Low-risk category C adult male training prison in Northamptonshire.

huge pressures on the prison estate. Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief Inspector of Prisons, has agreed with Richard Tilt, the Director General of the Prison Service, to delay any visits to the problem jails until remedial measures have had chance to take effect.

Criticisms by inspectors of the nine jails include an "impoverished and neglectful" regime at Glen Parva, conditions for young offenders at Chelmsford that may breach United Nations minimum standards, and "very serious intimidation and violence" at Holloway.

## Cinema chain plans to close 20 city-centre sites

The growth of out-of-town multiplexes is largely to blame for the planned closure of 20 city-centre cinema sites, the ABC cinema chain said last night. The move left 200 jobs hanging in the balance last night after a 16-month review by a new management team at the company. Barry Jenkins, the company's chief executive, yesterday criticised planners. "I believe that it is important for local planning authorities to adhere to the Government's guidelines in restricting out-of-town developments so that the vitality of town centres is preserved," he said.

ABC, which said it would retain its position as the second-largest British-owned cinema company even after the sell-off, is a multiplex operator itself. But it will reinvest the proceeds of the sale in multiplex developments mainly in town centres, such as those in Edinburgh, Oxford and Nottingham. It has plans for three more multiplexes by the end of next year.

John Wilkinson, chief executive of the Cinema Exhibitors' Association of cinema operators, said no one closed cinemas people were attending. Car parking was one problem in city centres. "There is pressure on every cinema site whether it is new or old to attract an audience. Some sites find it more difficult than others. But there are more screens opening than closing." An estimated £1.5bn has been invested in cinema since 1984.

— Louise Jury

## US takes diet pills off shelves

Two of the United States' most popular diet pills – which are also used by tens of thousands in the United Kingdom – were withdrawn in the US by the Food and Drug Administration yesterday after reports of heart problems in some patients. The drugs, dexfenfluramine (sold in the UK as Adipex) and fenfluramine (Ponderax), are used by millions of patients who the FDA now advise to stop taking them and contact their doctors. Fenfluramine is half of the popular diet drug combination called fen-phen. The other half, phentermine, is not affected by the withdrawal but patients can no longer use the combination for which 18 million prescriptions were written in the US in 1996.

The FDA asked manufacturers to withdraw the drugs after reviewing the records of 291 patients, of whom 30 per cent were found to have abnormal echocardiograms indicating heart defects.

The Health Department in Britain said yesterday that the use of diet pills was being kept under review.

— Jeremy Lawrence, Medical Correspondent

## £250,000 fine for rail inquiries

Train companies will be fined more than £250,000 by the rail regulator after failing to answer nearly 750,000 calls in four weeks from passengers using the telephone inquiry service.

John Swift QC, the rail regulator, instigated the investigation into the service after months of "awful" service. In the four-week period Mr Swift scrutinised the performance, more than 15 calls in every 100 went unanswered. In the worst seven days, beginning on 17 August, only 75 per cent of calls were answered, despite 30 extra operators being hired by the Association of Train Companies (Atoc), which administers the National Train Enquiry Service. More than 4.5 million people tried to get through to operators during the regulator's "enforcement" month. Less than 3.8 million had their calls answered. Under the regulator's strict target, the system should have handled more than 4 million calls.

— Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent  
South West recoups fine, page 10



Leicester City FC fans celebrating

Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

## Football boss accused of exploitation

A vice-chairman of Leicester City Football Club was at the centre of a financial row yesterday as his team prepared to play in Europe for the first time in a generation.

Steve Boggan examines the links between the vice-chairman and a travel company taking thousands of fans to the game.

Hundreds of Leicester City football fans have boycotted their team's official travel arrangements for tonight's game against Atletico Madrid amid claims that they are being exploited by the club.

Unrest among fans began to grow when Leicester City announced that it would cost £279 to fly to the match, see the game and return home immediately afterwards. Most supporters wanted to spend the night but were told they couldn't – so when they heard that a rival company was offering the same deal with a stay in a four-star hotel for £259 they were furious.

However, the real – and possibly lasting – damage was caused when it emerged that the club's vice-chairman, John Elson, was also chairman and managing director of Page & Moy, the company that won the contract to act as the club's official tour operator.

Leicester City and Page & Moy insisted yesterday that no one was making a prof-

it out of the deal, but many fans remained unconvinced. The rival travel company, David Dryer Sports Tours, has now attracted 520 fans for its £259 package and says it expects to make a healthy profit.

"Much as we love Leicester City fans, we wouldn't take them there for nothing," said Greg Dryer, the owner's son. "But we can get them there, get them a ticket, arrange their transfers and put them up in a four-star hotel for £259 and still make a profit. Frankly, we can't work out why it is so expensive to go with the club."

Mr Elson was not available yesterday, but the club's chairman, Tom Smeaton, said a "small service charge" was made to cover administration: "Our normal practice is to get competitive tenders for everything and that was carried out in this case. The club has acted properly."

David Short, marketing director of Leicester-based Page & Moy, also said no profit was being made. "We are charging a fixed handling fee, but that is all," he said. He pointed out that his company went from the local airport, East Midlands, while David Dryer's flew from Stansted.

Fans had been told by the club that match tickets would not be available from Atletico Madrid, but Glenn Stewart, 41, one fan who made his own arrangements – and saved £80 – found that this was not true. Atletico Madrid quoted a match ticket price of about £23. Mr Stewart's flight cost £168, making a total of £191.

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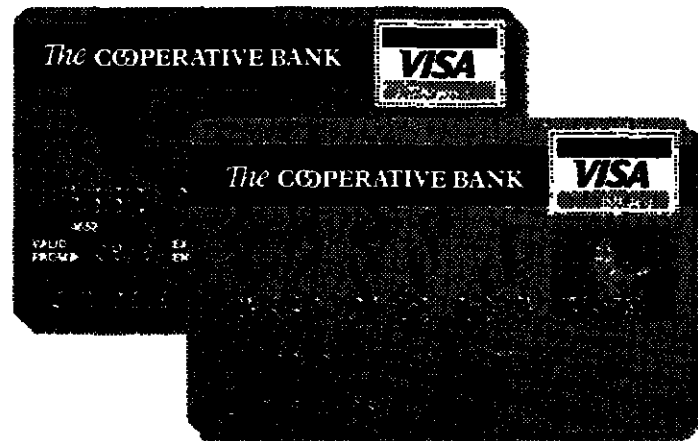
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## Hague fights back against the Tory snipers

William Hague, the Tory leader, last night fought back against sniping from Conservative critics of his leadership, who suggested he lacked experience. Fresh from the Labour landslide, the party is desperate to avoid further disunity. Anthony Bevis and Christian Walmar report on another day of Tory turmoil.

Mr Hague showed signs of panic last night in response to a sudden deluge of criticism, when he opened up a planned private meeting of Tory activists to the media borders who have suddenly scented blood.

He went on the attack after an awful Sunday, in which his broadside on Labour's handling of the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales backfired, and Hugh Dykes, a former Tory MP, defected to the Liberal Democrats.

Speaking to 400 Tory voluntary workers from London and the South East, Mr

Hague made no attempt to retract his remarks. He said that while the Tories would "not oppose just for the sake of opposing" the party would not "shy away from speaking our minds" even if "there are times when blunt speaking offends some people".

But he had clearly been stung by criticisms from both within and without the party over his remarks about the funeral. In particular, he seemed to respond to Lord Tebbit's suggestion that he should deal with practical political issues rather than royal matters.

Lord Tebbit intimated that Mr Hague's attack on the Government over Diana's funeral should be put down to inexperience. He said: "One would expect that any leaders would gain discretion with experience and perhaps, if I had been the leader of the party at this time, I would have been going on other issues."

In response, in his evening speech Mr Hague listed a series of betrayals by the Labour government. "Labour asked the British people to trust them with the economy... What have we got instead? Four mortgage rate hikes... and 17 tax rises in

Gordon Brown's very first Budget."

Mr Hague's statement over Diana had earlier prompted outrage from senior Labour figures. Ron Davies, the Secretary of State for Wales, said Mr Hague's behaviour was "disgraceful" and "despicable". A Downing Street spokesman said it was "totally untrue" to say that the Government briefed in any way on any conversations between the Prime Minister and the Queen.

However, Mr Hague did receive some support. Stephen Dorrell, former Secretary of State for Health, said: "What he said yesterday expressed a sense of unease felt by many people about the way that, not the PM himself - I don't accuse him of this - but some of the people around him, have sought to look for party advantage after the events following her death."

The former chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, also defended him despite Mr Dykes's statement that he had left the party because Mr Hague "lost the leadership election to Mr Hague. 'We're only a few months into the Parliament and it was bound to be the case that, whoever was leading the opposition, would get into difficulties,'" he said.



Media star: The MacBunny from Live TV trying to steal the limelight from William Hague, the Tory leader, on a recent anti-devolution campaign visit to Scotland. Photograph: Brian Harris

## I'm just William, and jolly fed up too

William slouched disconsolately along the lane, his hands in his pockets. Even his faithful Welsh collie, Jenkins, sensing her master's distress, had stopped bringing him sticks to throw; she trotted discreetly at his heels, head downcast.

By rights, it should have been a wonderful summer for William. The weather had been glorious, Mr and Mrs Hague had relaxed most of their term-time restrictions, allowing him to stay out late in the long evenings, and - best of all - the Outlaws had now accepted him as their undisputed leader. What more could a boy have wanted? An endless vista of fights, games and adventures had beckoned with him, William, always taking on the most heroic and exciting roles.

But it had all gone horri-

asked Duncan. "A very right-wing one, wot b'lieves in prisons and canes!" suggested Howard. "Woman I know tried that once," objected Cecil. "now no one's interested in it."

Thinking, William ran his hand through his tousled hair, only to discover that he hadn't got any. When at last he spoke it was with the deliberation of genius unbundling itself. "Fresh, Clear an' Open!" he pronounced triumphantly. "That's wot people want. They want toothpaste an' deodorant like it, an' TV presenters like it, so I 'spect they'll want political parties like it too."

"Well I've read about politics," said Duncan, "an' they're all goin' on walkabouts, an' meeting the people, an' opposin', so that's what we've gotter do. We've gotter have a strat'gy." So they had agreed a strat'gy.

And it had gone badly wrong. Only a week later, the Outlaws were giving themselves up to recrimination. "Look modern, you tol' me," said William, bitterly. "So I put on that baseball cap - an' ol' Blair wears a suit an' tie, an' everyone says I look ridic'lous, an' he looks prime ministerial. Meet the people, you tol' me. So I met 'em an' met 'em. I met white ones in theme parks, an' I met black ones in Notting Hill, an' I met 'em in Scotland, an' I met 'em in Wales. I kep' on meetin' 'em till my hand hurt. An' they said I was a silly smile on legs. Oppose ol' Blair you said, so I jolly well opposed him, over the Queen an' everything, and now you all say you're fed up."

Duncan, Howard and Cecil nodded glumly. "Well I'm jolly well fed up too!" said William. "An' I'd just like to see any of you try leadin' an' see if you can do any better!" There was a brief silence.

"Mmmmm," replied Howard. "I might just take you up on that, William."

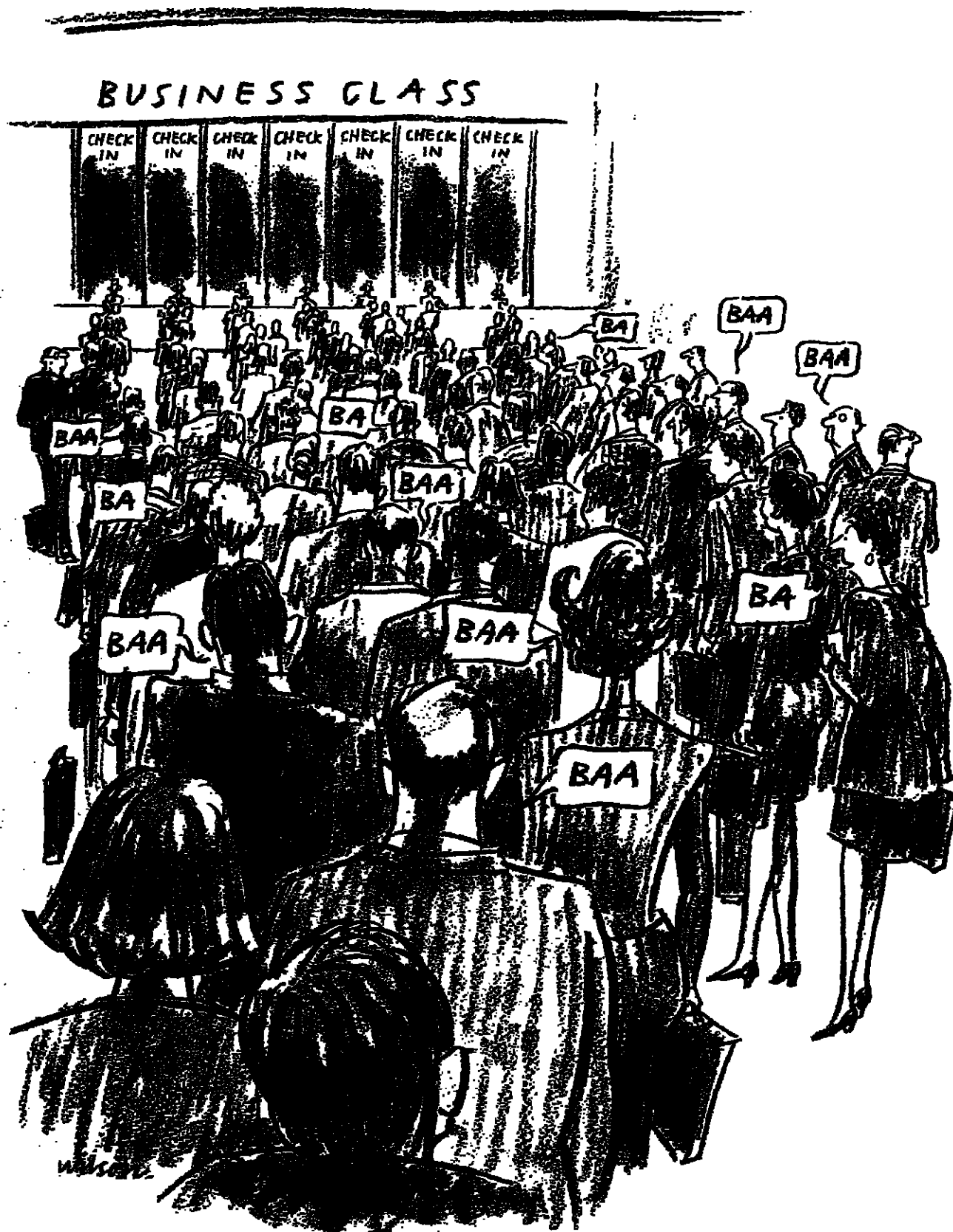
BY DAVID

AARONOVITCH

bly wrong. The rot had set in when he and the Outlaws had been ousted from the Old Barn by their worst enemies, the Tony Blairites; a group of smart, uncouth, swartish boys from the other side of the village who had taken unfair advantage of a particularly strenuous wrestling match between the Outlaws themselves, to rush in and take over the barn. Since then their exile had weighed heavily upon the Outlaws.

"I know!" William had said one sunny afternoon, as he and his companions had glumly watched the Blairites gambolling in the meadow. "Let's have a political party. We'll campaign, an' oppose an' things. An' then we'll challenge them to an election, and jolly well win!"

Immediately all their spirits lifted. "But what sort of political party should we be?"



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## Booker list continues an Indian love affair

The shortlist for the Booker Prize, fiction's premier award, was announced yesterday. Big-name novelists such as Ian McEwan and Jeanette Winterson have failed to make the list, but, as David Lister reports, for debut novelist Arundhati Roy, it is a dream come true.

The love affair between Britain and the narrative sweep of novels from the Indian sub-continent continues with the inclusion of first-time novelist Arundhati Roy on the Booker Prize shortlist.

But Ms Roy's book, a sharp and witty story of a family tragedy resulting from caste conflicts, has a different tone from novelists such as Salman Rushdie and Vikram Seth, and its journey on to the shortlist is the stuff of a novel itself.

The shortlist for the £20,000 prize announced yesterday has surprising omissions of big names, including Ian McEwan, Jeanette Winterson and Carole Shields. It contains *Grace Notes* by Bernard MacLaverty, *Quarantine* by Jim Crace, *The Underground* by Mick Jackson, *Europa* by Tim Parks, *The Essence Of Things* by Madeleine St John and *The God Of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy.

A former architectural student and screen writer, Ms Roy was the child of a mixed marriage and the victim of caste prejudice. She spent years living among lepers and social outcasts before achieving sudden

fame when she gave a copy of her manuscript to the agent Pankaj Mishra, then a HarperCollins editor in India. He was so excited that he rang her in the middle of the night.

He then sent a copy to literary agent David Godwin in London and Mr Godwin turned up on Ms Roy's doorstep in India, asking to be her agent. Flamingo, an imprint of HarperCollins, won the auction with an advance of £150,000.

Bookmakers William Hill said last night: "It looks a wide open list and the omission of Ian McEwan is the most interesting one since Martin Amis."

Chairwoman of the judges, Professor Gillian Beer, said the panel had read 106 books. "We don't read every word of every book," she said, "but there are only a few where I've been skipping pages."

Discussing the secret of a successful Booker title, she said: "You must want to read on. You must have some sense of a challenge and a distinctive voice should come through. There must be something that engages you and evokes some form of human life... Whatever it is, it should be intensely there."

Last year's winner was Graham Swift with *Last Orders*, narrowly and surprisingly beating Margaret Atwood's engaging and intensely there novel, *Alias Grace*.

William Hill's Booker odds: 2/1 Bernard MacLaverty *Grace Notes*; 3/1 Jim Crace *Quarantine*; 7/2 Arundhati Roy *The God Of Small Things*; 9/2 Madeleine St John *The Essence Of Things*; 5/1 Tim Parks *Europa*; 6/1 Mick Jackson *The Underground Man*.



Glittering debut: Arundhati Roy's first novel draws on difficult events and experiences from her own life in southern India

Photograph: Karen Kapoor/Camera Press

### THE BOOKER PRIZE SHORTLIST - WHAT THE CRITICS SAID

*Grace Notes*, by Bernard MacLaverty (Cape)

A young Northern Irish composer's revolt against her family, with hints at the province's traumatic history. In *The Independent*, Patricia Craig praised "a very subtle novel which gains its richness from sources far removed from plentiful activity".

*Quarantine*, by Jim Crace (Viking)

In the Judean wilderness, 2,000 years ago, the young Jesus fasts and watches as, around him, a band of rogues and peasants work through their conflicts. Michael Arditti marvelled at "powers of description as awesome as the landscape he evokes".

*Europa*, by Tim Parks (Secker & Warburg)

An English language teacher in Italy, who has achieved nothing in love or work, reflects on the spiritual ruins of his life. Nicholas Wroe enjoyed "a thoughtfully realised book that pushes its humour into ever deeper shades of black".

*The Underground Man*, by Mick Jackson (Picador)

Based on the true story of a 19th-century Duke of Portland, Jackson's first novel explores the weird inner world of an eccentric aristocrat. Francis Spufford called it "a romance of containers" set in "a malleable region of fantastic events".

*The God Of Small Things*, by Arundhati Roy (Flamingo)

Lyrical, tragi-comic novel unfolds against the lush South Indian landscape, where twins come to terms with their mother's doomed cross-cultural love match. Maya Jaggi acclaimed "a remarkably assured debut... both moving and compelling".

*The Essence of the Thing*, by Madeleine St John (Fourth Estate)

Dark horse of the shortlist. An ostensibly happy Notting Hill ménage suddenly falls apart. With a sardonic eye and fierce humour, St John traces a woman's struggle to rebuild her life.

— Boyd Tonkin, Literary Editor

## Covent Garden's 'Mr Darcy' is told to leave the stage

Keith Cooper, the Royal Opera House chief whose abrasive manner made him one of the most feared people in the arts, is being moved. David Lister reveals the first move to propel the ROH into the new Labour world of "the people's opera".



Feared: Keith Cooper, who is being moved from his post at the ROH

For a brief period, his face was better known than some of the star singers and dancers he promoted. But Keith Cooper, head of corporate affairs, and the surprise star of the BBC series *The House* has been told by new ROH chief executive, Mary Allen, that he will no longer be the public face and voice of Covent Garden.

Instead, Cooper will be concentrating on marketing strategies and increasing access to the ROH in the wake of demands by Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, for it to become "the people's opera".

Cooper's old role of heading the opera house's press relations and being its public spokesman will be advertised next week.

In the BBC series *The House*, Cooper came across as the JR of Covent Garden. Awestruck viewers, some of whom wrote him fan mail afterwards, watched him sack a box office manager, publicly accuse an employee of lack of intelligence and close the opera house shop. And each time in a different designer suit. *Arts Management Weekly* reported that, for women of the chattering classes, Cooper had replaced the surly Mr Darcy of *Pride and Prejudice* as the man they most wanted to reform.

But now the romantic hero is to be removed from the spotlight and given a behind-the-scenes role.

His new post will involve the crucial task of thinking up ideas to increase access—relaying performances to multiplexes and holding low-price matinees are two ventures he is keen on. And Chris Smith has warned that he will cut the grant to the opera house if access to it is not increased.

But it is equally apparent that Mary Allen wants a change of image for the institution, following a series of high-profile public relations disasters.

These involved not only long-running concern over high ticket prices, but Mrs Allen's own appointment by her former colleague, and now the opera house chairman, Lord Chadlington, without the post being advertised; the shock resignation of her predecessor, Genista McIntosh; the use of lottery money to fund redundancies; the failure to find a suitable temporary home during the two-year closure of Covent Garden, and scathing public criticism by a House of Commons select committee.

The Royal Opera House faces two public tests over the coming weeks. Next week, the Royal Ballet opens its new season at the Labatt's Apollo in Hammersmith. Ticket sales have been poor amid fears that the venue lacks sufficient glamour. The company has also been hit by an injury to ballerina Darcie Bussell.

After that, Mary Allen has to appear before the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee along with fund-raiser Vivien Duffield.

MPs are certain to question them about the opera house's image and its alleged failure to attract an audience from all social classes.

## Galleries given time to raise £9m to save Van Gogh

British art galleries and collectors were yesterday given two months to raise £9m and prevent a watercolour by Vincent Van Gogh, *Harvest in Provence*, from being exported and disappearing into a private collection in the United States.

The watercolour was described as the most important work on paper by Van Gogh, still in private hands, when it was sold by Sotheby's in London last June. The £8.8m paid by an anonymous bidder on the telephone set an auction price record for a work on paper by the Dutch artist.

It appeared the watercolour, depicting a scene outside Arles in Provence, was about to go abroad after 70 years in an Eng-

lish private collection. But Mark Fisher, the arts minister, yesterday deferred a decision on an export licence for the work.

Though Sotheby's has not disclosed the identity of the buyer, it is rumoured to be an American collector. Had it been a gallery, Mr Fisher, and the experts of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, might have taken a different view, as at least the painting would go on public view. A decision on the export licence will be deferred until after 12 November, and if serious interest emerges, it could be put back again to 12 March 1998.

David Barrie, director of the National Art Collection Fund, the leading art charity,

said the deferral offered an opportunity to ensure that a major work did not disappear from public view. "This is undoubtedly one of the finest watercolours by Van Gogh and adds substantially to our appreciation of Van Gogh's technique and approach." It is the original version of the famous oil, known as *La Charrue Bleue*.

The watercolour was formerly owned by the distinguished London collector, Mrs JBA Kessler, who purchased it in 1924. The most likely British purchaser would be the Tate Gallery in London, which already has four Van Goghs, given by Mrs Kessler's uncle, Frank Stoop.

— Stephen Goodwin

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# 8/ULSTER TALKS

## Unionists set for place at peace table

Unionist parties stayed away from the opening of all-party peace talks in Belfast.

But, as David McKittrick, Ireland Correspondent, reports, it is only a matter of time before they join in.

The Northern Ireland peace process notched up another little increment of history yesterday as multi-party talks opened at Stormont with Sinn Féin at the table.

It was not, however, the in-

clusive occasion which the British and Irish governments had hoped for, since a Protestant boycott of the proceedings turned Stormont into a Unionist-free zone for the day.

But both governments have high hopes that David Trimble's Ulster Unionists and other loyalists will make their entry soon, possibly as early as today, thus bringing mainstream Unionists and the republican movement into the same process for the first time ever.

Former US senator George Mitchell called a plenary session of the talks to order at 2pm yesterday, with Sinn Féin and four other parties arrayed around the

large conference table. The chairs set aside for five Unionist parties were empty.

At that moment Mr Trimble was eating soup and a roll in a Belfast city centre café, affect-

ing not to notice the five television camera-crews capturing his every movement. The exercise seemed to be a studied show of nonchalance in the face of mounting pressure to go

to the talks, and a determination not to be dragged onto the table prematurely.

Instead of attending at Stormont he made arrangements to meet Mr Mitchell later in a

nearby hotel, rather than going to Stormont, for discussions on what he described as "the precise procedural arrangements for our involvement".

The two governments have

floated the idea of a procedural motion which would allow the talks to make a start on substantive issues even in the absence of the Unionists. But, since a statement from Mr Trimble said that if his party's concerns are met "we intend to be present at Castle Grounds as soon as possible", his appearance as early as this morning is regarded as a possibility.

There is speculation that the use of the phrase "Castle Grounds" rather than "Castle Buildings", where the talks are being held, could mean the Unionist party might decide to go to Stormont while refusing to enter the same building as the republican delegation.

Mr Trimble's conspicuous refusal to be rushed meant that, for once, at least some of the media focus was distracted away from Sinn Féin, though at Stormont itself the main event of the day was the arrival of party president Gerry Adams and his talks team.

He said: "We do think this could be the beginning of the end of conflict on this island." Of the Unionists he said: "If they are not here today they will be here tomorrow, or the day after or the day after - and the sooner the better for everyone."

This was just one item on a hectic political schedule aimed primarily at easing the Unionists' path to the table. The chief element was a joint statement from Prime Minister Tony Blair and

Republicans parade the Irish Tricolour yesterday as the multi-party talks opened in Belfast with Sinn Féin at the table  
Photograph: David Rose

the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern. This both emphasised the principle of consent and affirmed that the two governments saw the resolution of the arms decommissioning issue as an indispensable part of the process of negotiation.

Although the Unionist party would have much preferred the word "mandatory" to "indispensable", it regarded the statement as representing a useful advance on the governments' positions.

Later, Paul Murphy, minister for political development, went to Unionist party headquarters for talks with Mr Trimble and others.

From parties within the talks came criticism of the Unionists, the Social Democratic and Labour Party speaking dismissively of "contrived drama". Monica McWilliams of the Women's Coalition said: "It is boys playing war and I am angry about it. We have one more year to put this thing right and the time is now and today."

Mark Durkan of the SDLP said: "We don't want to make things difficult for David Trimble. If there are things needed to give him and the Ulster Unionists a few more cushions to make them comfortable sitting with Sinn Féin, okay. If however they're looking to change the furniture and the architecture of the place then that's a different matter."

A poignant note was struck by the appearance outside the talks of Rita Restorick, the mother of the last British soldier to be killed by the IRA. Holding a photograph of her 23-year-old son, Stephen, she said: "I want all the parties to take part and try and find a resolution, but both sides will have to make compromises. I felt I had to come for the benefit of the ordinary people and although I'm not overly optimistic, I want these talks to succeed."

## Thirteen parties are involved

Although most media attention tends to focus on the Ulster Unionist Party and perhaps most of all on Sinn Féin, there are in fact 13 distinct elements involved in the Stormont talks.

On the Unionist side, David Trimble's party is complemented by the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists and Robert McCartney's UK Unionists, both of whom are currently boycotting the talks. There are also the two parties with paramilitary associations, the Progressive Unionists and Ulster Democratic Party.

The SDLP is the largest party on the nationalist side, followed by Sinn Féin. But another strong nationalist element is the Irish government which co-sponsors the talks with Britain, and which traditionally works in co-operation with the SDLP.

There is also a range of other parties, the largest of which is the middle-of-the-road Alliance party, along with a women's grouping and a Labour section. The British government itself obviously plays a major part in proceed-

ings, but so too does an international team of chairmen headed by former US senator George Mitchell.

The team also includes a Canadian general, John de Chastelaine, and a former prime minister of Finland, Håri Holkeiri. While the chairmen generally try to be unobtrusive, many of the participants regard them as a creative element which has proved crucial in helping keeping the talks alive.

All of those involved are charged with, in effect, working out an entirely new political dispensation for Northern Ireland, attempting to map out a new settlement which would remove violence from the scene. The approach is described as three-stranded. One section of the talks deals with arrangements for government within Northern Ireland while another will address the overarching relations between Dublin and London. The other strand, regarded as the most problematic, is that of North-South relations.

David McKittrick

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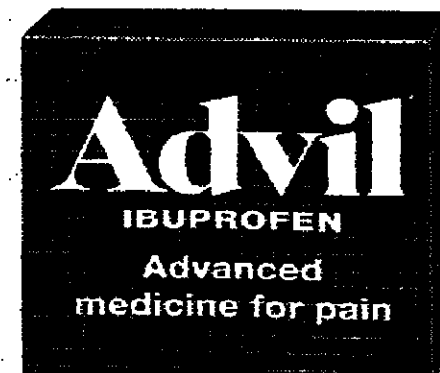
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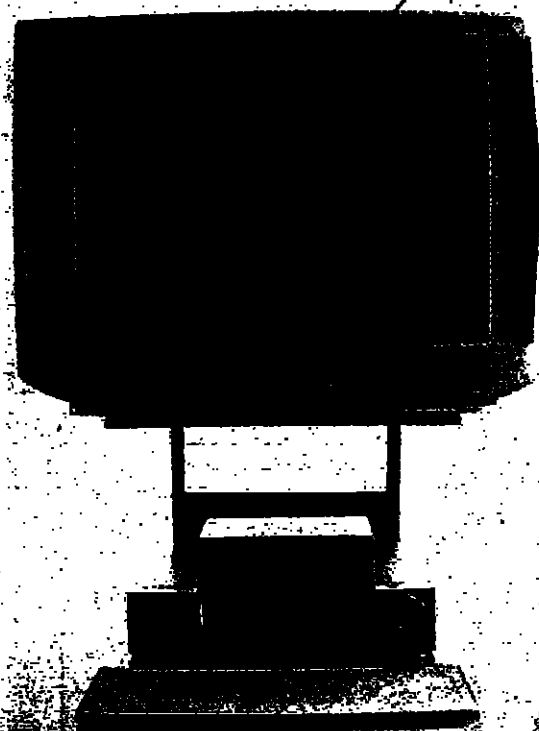
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# 11/BHUTTO AT BAY

THE INDEPENDENT  
TUESDAY  
16 SEPTEMBER 1997

## Pakistan asks for Benazir asset freeze

At the request of the Pakistan government, Switzerland has frozen bank accounts held in the country by Benazir Bhutto and her family. As Rupert Cornwell reports, the events are the latest development in a year-long corruption investigation of the former prime minister, which is bound to increase already deep political tensions in Pakistan.

According to senior officials in Islamabad, the Pakistani authorities are trying to block accounts they claim were held by the Bhuttos in no less than nine countries, including Britain and France, and totalling between \$50m (£31m) and \$80m in Switzerland alone.

In Bern, the Swiss Federal Office of Police Affairs described the measure as "provisional and preventative," taken at the request of another government. But in Islamabad an exultant Seifur Rehman, a senior official in charge of the corruption probe, hailed the Swiss action as "a milestone" in efforts to build a watertight case against the Bhuttos.

Mr Rehman said the accounts, believed to be held in four Geneva banks including the local subsidiary of Barclays, Barclays Bank (Suisse) SA, belonged to Ms Bhutto, her husband Asif Ali Zardari, her mother Begum Nusrat Bhutto, and her father-in-law Hakim Ali Zardari. "The royal couple made billions overnight by underhand deals," Mr Rehman angrily charged at a press conference. At the same time he produced bank statements and other documents purporting to show that the accounts contained kickbacks paid for commercial concessions handed out by the family before Ms Bhutto was sacked as prime minister in November 1996.

"They tailored rules and regulations and altered policies and procedures," he went on, accusing the family of setting up a web of offshore companies to channel money into the foreign accounts. But Ms Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) branded the allegations "a sheer lie," and part of a "blitz of char-

acter assassination" against her and Mr Zardari.

Swiss spokesman said the request had come in a fax on 8 September from Islamabad, and that relevant accounts and safe deposit boxes had been blocked the same day. In London a Foreign Office spokesman refused to say whether the British government had received a similar request.

The anti-corruption probe against the Bhuttos was intensified when her longstanding political foe Nawaz Sharif became prime minister in February. Three months earlier Ms Bhutto was sacked amid charges of corruption and misuse and her husband was thrown into jail, charged with involvement in the death of her brother Murtaza, who had broken with Benazir, and was killed in a shoot-out with police in September 1996.

The next step will be submission of the evidence against the Bhuttos to Pakistan's government watchdog commissioner and to the courts, who will decide on any arrests. Mr Rehman said, he would give the commissioner a further 30 police reports linking Ms Bhutto and her husband to corruption cases during her time in power between 1994 and 1996.

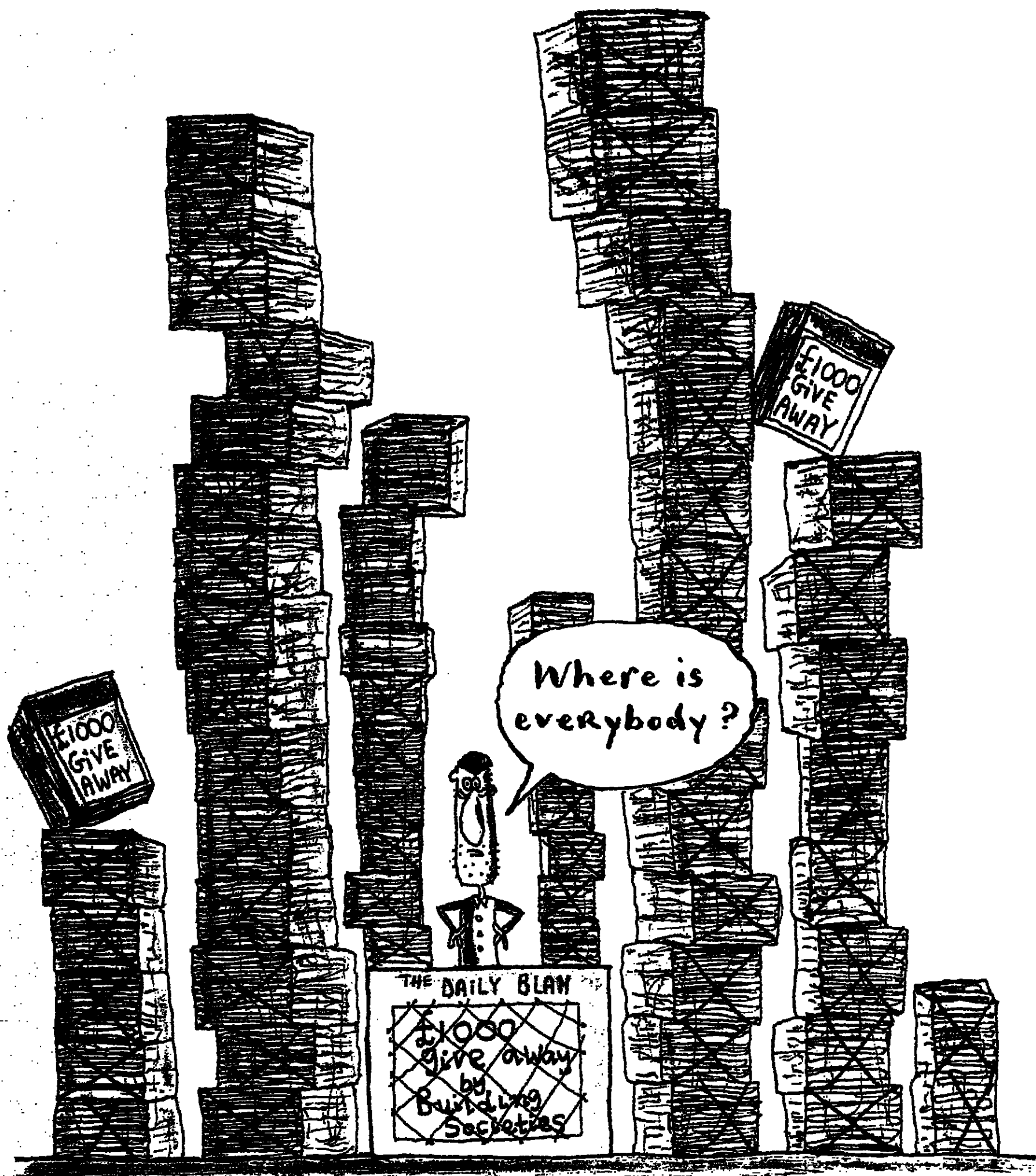
In Bern, officials gave no word on how much the suspect accounts contained. But they have told Pakistan it must make a formal request for legal assistance and provide more documentary support for the accusations within three months. At that point the Swiss authorities will decide whether to take the matter further.

The pursuit of Ms Bhutto as well as her husband dims hopes of a political comeback by Benazir, after the PPP's disastrous showing in the last election in which it won just 17 of 217 seats in parliament. According to associates she had recently made up her mind to abandon her husband - not only because of mounting evidence he had been behind her brother's murder, but because association with a man reviled as "Mr 30 per cent" was a deadly drag on her political ambitions.

Apart from Barclays, the other three banks named by Mr Rehman were the Union Bank of Switzerland, Citibank Switzerland and Cantrade Ormond Burrus Private.

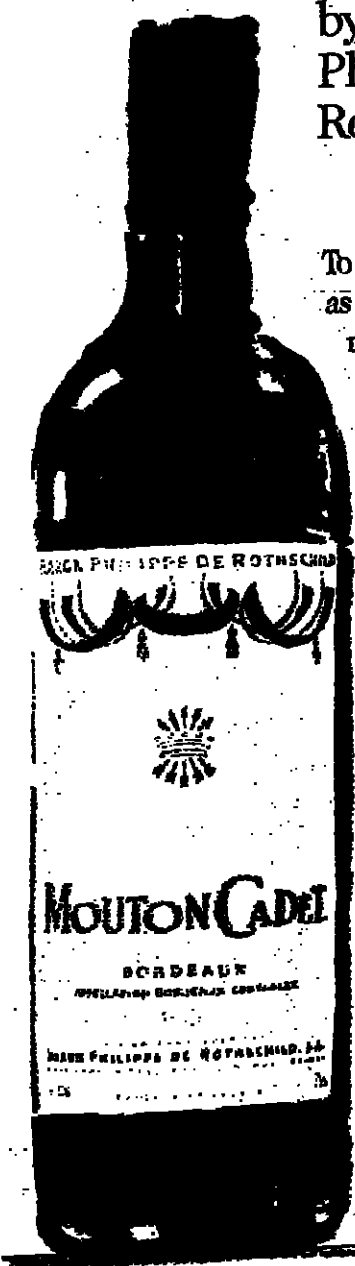


The corruption allegations against Ms Bhutto have dimmed hopes of a political comeback following her party's disastrous showing in this year's elections



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## Senator loses his battle with redneck Jesse Helms

The best summer drama on offer in Washington, an inter-ethnic Republican clash pitting brains against brawn, concluded yesterday with victory for Jesse Helms, the senator from North Carolina, over William Weld, a Harvard-educated classics scholar and former governor of Massachusetts.

Mr Weld quit his post as Governor after President Clinton nominated him for the job of ambassador to Mexico. But yesterday, Senator Helms, the hard-right chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, refused to grant Mr Weld a confirmation hearing.

Mr Helms' stated reason for opposing Mr Weld's appointment was that the former governor, who supports the medical use of marijuana, could not be counted upon to conduct the war against drugs with vigour. The real reason, observers say, is that Mr Weld has made no secret of his belief that Senator Helms is an ignorant redneck, woefully unqualified to be one of the most powerful foreign policy positions in Washington.

## Plea to reopen the verdict on Tiananmen protest

The top Chinese politician purged after Tiananmen Square demonstrations has savaged the official verdict which branded the student-led protests as a "counter-revolutionary rebellion". A forlorn appeal from a forgotten man, or a glimmer of political change in China? Teresa Poole studies the latest twist in what is still the most sensitive political issue in China.

Zhao Ziyang, now a white-haired 78-year-old, made his last appearance on 19 May 1989 when he tearfully visited the students in Tiananmen Square and tried to persuade them to go home. Since then he has been living under virtual house arrest. In February this year he was refused permission to attend the funeral of his former mentor, China's late patriarch Deng Xiaoping.

Mr Zhao remains a popular figure in most ordinary Pekingers' consciousness, a man who represents an era of relative political openness in the mid-1980s, when the possibility of change reaching beyond the economic sphere was briefly alive. In 1989, he was the ultimate victim of a vicious internal power struggle in the Chinese Communist Party between fellow liberals and hardliners who wanted to roll back the Deng reforms. His was the scalp that Mr Deng provided in order to safeguard the programme to modernise the economy.

The two-and-a-half page typed letter which yesterday found its way to the Reuters news agency was dated 12 September 1997 and ended with Mr Zhao's typed name, but there was no handwritten signature. If authentic, it represents the first direct political move by Mr Zhao in eight years, and a most blunt demand for the verdict to be rewritten.

"No matter how radical, wrong and blameworthy



High hopes: Zhao attacked suppression of protestors

Photograph: Stuart Franklin/Magnum

the students' movement was, to call it a 'counter-revolutionary rebellion' was groundless. And if it was not a counter-revolutionary rebellion, it should not have been solved by means of military suppression," the letter reads. Unknown hundreds of people are believed to have died when troops were sent in to clear the demonstration.

Mr Zhao said the bloodshed could have been avoided. "It was well-known that the request of the majority of the students then was to punish corruption and accelerate political reform, not to overthrow the Communist Party or subvert the nation," he wrote.

There was no independent confirmation of whether the letter had come directly from Mr Zhao. It was sent to the 15th Communist Party Congress

on Friday, the opening day. No China analyst expects Mr Zhao to make a political comeback, but he could re-emerge as a very disruptive influence for a party desperate to present a picture of unity.

The question of the Tiananmen Square verdict is the last issue which China's leaders want on the agenda at this juncture. This is the congress at which President Jiang Zemin, who is also general secretary of the party, is determined to establish himself as the *primus inter pares* for the post-Deng era.

Mr Jiang was not directly involved in the decision to send in the troops to Tiananmen Square, but his sudden elevation to party chief in 1989 was as a result of the deposing of Mr Zhao, who until then had been Mr Deng's anointed successor.

## US offers compromise on global landmine ban

In a major reversal, the United States has offered to sign a global treaty banning landmines under a compromise that would allow an additional nine years before the ban takes effect. US officials said yesterday. But they said negotiations in Oslo were nearing the end game and it was not at all clear if the compromise would be accepted. "A compromise has been offered that would be nine years from signature," one said. Countries could elect to defer implementing the ban on deploying new landmines for nine years from signing the treaty, which is expected to be signed in December. Negotiators had discussed a two-year phase-in period. The official stressed that the compromise of nine years was the same period that existed under an earlier convention on conventional weapons that regulated landmines.

Until this weekend, when it told allies of its new position, the US had said it could not sign any treaty that limited its ability to use anti-personnel landmines to defend South Korea from an attack from the North. But officials said pressure had been building in favour of the treaty, forcing the proposal. — Reuters

## Poison levels in dairy foods

Disturbing levels of the poison dioxin have been discovered in some French dairy products, according to the newspaper *Le Monde*. Although the quantities identified are far below the accepted danger level, some are higher than the limits recommended by the Council of Europe. One of the milk-producing areas worst affected, apparently by atmospheric pollution from surrounding industry, is the Pas-de-Calais, just across the Channel from Kent.

According to *Le Monde*, a study commissioned by the French agriculture ministry — and never published — found significant levels of dioxin in 19 out of 40 samples taken in 34 French départements. The Council of Europe recommends that dioxin in dairy products should remain below 1 picogram per gram of fat. Above 5 picograms, the products must be removed from the market. Most of the samples showed dioxin levels at just below or just over 1 picogram. Two findings in the Pas-de-Calais and Seine Maritime were above 3 picograms.

The French Ministry of Agriculture said it regarded the results as "acceptable". Most of the findings were close to the "target" set by the Council of Europe, it said.

## Author takes swipe at male fragility

Washington (Reuters) — Best-selling Chilean writer Isabel Allende has turned to sex and food for her next work — a recipe book to stimulate the love lives of her readers.

The aphrodisiac recipes, concocted with the help of her 76-year-old mother, will appear next month in Spain under the title *Aphrodite*. "It's a book about sex and food," Allende said during a visit to the US capital. "It's a male problem, really. Women have no interest in aphrodisiacs, which have their origin in the fragility of the male organ. It is given names of tools and weapons, and even said to have supernatural powers, but in fact it fits inside a tin of sardines."

The author of *The House of the Spirits* said she had exorcised the pain of her daughter's death in her last book, *Purple*, and had recovered her inspiration and her humour. She is working on a historical novel and the Sundance Institute is preparing a film script based on her collection of stories called *Eva Luna*.

## Top Russian politician under death threat

Death threats have acquired a grim plausibility in post-Soviet Russia, where hundreds of business executives have been killed in the scramble for the nation's spoils. So the Kremlin had no choice yesterday but to sharply tighten security around one of their most powerful and least popular officials, Anatoly Chubais. Aides to Mr Chubais, one of the top three in the Yeltsin administration, said that the Russian security services had received a tip-off of a possible plot to kill him.

The First Deputy Prime Minister has long been a hate-figure for millions of Russians, who blame him for bungling the privatisation of much of the Soviet Union's industries during the early 1990s. But he is also at the centre of a new conflict — a split within the ranks of the media barons and business moguls who rallied around President Boris Yeltsin last year but are now scrambling for their share of booty in the latest round of state sell-offs. This erupted into the open in July,

Anatoly Chubais: Plot

with the sale of a stake in the giant state telecoms holding company, *Svyazinvest*. It went to the highest bidder — a consortium led by Vladimir Potanin, a multi-millionaire banker. But some of the losers were furious. Leading the outcry was Boris Berezovsky, a media mogul who bankrolled Mr Yeltsin's election campaign. This weekend, *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, which is part of his business empire, launched an attack on Mr Chubais, accusing him of Lenin-like despotism. — Phil Reeves

## Albright sees hope for Cyprus talks

Larnaca, Cyprus (Reuters) — The Greek Cypriot President, Glafos Clerides, and the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktash, plan to meet soon to discuss security issues linked to the dispute dividing the island, the United States Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, said yesterday.

"This is a substantial step. The environment of tension, threat, and counter-threat has been going on in Cyprus for far too long," Mrs Albright said during a brief stopover in Cyprus after completing a Middle East tour.

She said that Mr Clerides and Mr Denktash expressed their willingness to meet Tom Miller, the new US State Department co-ordinator for Cyprus who had contacts with the two leaders yesterday. No date for the talks was specified.

Mrs Albright spent about 30 minutes in Cyprus after a visit to Lebanon. She then boarded a jet to return to Washington. She did not meet any Cypriot officials.

## Skeleton Coast crash one in a million

Washington — Two military planes which disappeared on Sunday probably collided in mid-air over the south Atlantic off Namibia and there were no signs yesterday that any of the 33 people on board survived.

A senior American air force official said it appeared "most likely" that the US military cargo plane and a German transport plane were involved in a mid-air collision on Sunday night.

Major General Greg Gile, director of operations at the US Atlantic Command, said that the two planes, whose flight paths intersected over the cold waters off Namibia's Skeleton Coast, had gone missing at about the same time in the same air space.

The South African air force was yesterday heading an extensive search and rescue mission but no survivors were



A Russian-built Tupolev, in service in the German air force, and of the type involved in the collision

found. A Namibian fishing vessel reported sighting what appear to have been pieces of wreckage from the German plane, a Russian-built Tupolev that used to belong to the East German air force. The vessel picked up part of an aeroplane seat and papers in German.

The German plane was trans-

porting 12 marines, two of their spouses and 10 crew members to Cape Town where the marines were due to take part in a regatta to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the South African navy.

The American plane, a giant C-141, had nine crew members aboard, all of whose identities

were made known yesterday to their relatives in the US. The C-141, heading in an easterly direction, was carrying cargo from Ascension Island, a British possession, to Namibia.

While some of the blame is likely to fall on the air traffic controllers from South Africa, Angola and Namibia who jointly monitor air space in that part of the South Atlantic, it nevertheless appears to have been an extraordinary, one-in-a-million misfortune that the two aircraft should have collided.

● Washington — The US Air Force said it had temporarily grounded its fleet of F-117A stealth fighters following the spectacular air show crash of one of the little bat-wing planes near Baltimore on Sunday. The service stressed there was no indication of any problem with other F-117s, all based at a base in New Mexico.

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# 13/BATTLE FOR JERUSALEM

THE INDEPENDENT  
TUESDAY  
16 SEPTEMBER 1997

## Jewish settlers take over Palestinian houses

Jewish settlers moved overnight into Ras al-Amud, a Palestinian district of Jerusalem. The move kills any chance of co-operation between Israel and the Palestinians to stop suicide bombers and increases the chance of fresh bombings. Patrick Cockburn reports a move certain to provoke a new crisis over the city.

"We came here with 15 people to settle and 40 supporters to live here peacefully," says Ron Torossian, spokesman for the Jewish settlers who had just taken over a large house in Ras al-Amud, a district in which live 11,000 Palestinian. Mr Torossian, 23, formerly from the Bronx in New York and waving an Israeli flag, said that his group would be taking over other houses in the neighbourhood in due course. He admitted some of the settlers were armed, adding: "There cannot be peace with [Yasser] Arafat. There cannot be peace with the Arabs who want to kill the Jews."

The takeover of two houses - one a large villa and the other a small office - within sight of the Muslim shrines of al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock, appears to have been timed by the settlers to sink any hope of further peace negotiations between Israel and Palestinians. Many of their cars bore the stickers: "Save Israel - Stop Oslo Now."

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, said yesterday that the Israeli

ment had the legal right to stop the takeover on overall security grounds it had not done so. Batya Klein, 22, one of the settlers, said: "We told the police what we were going to do early yesterday morning."

Palestinians in Ras al-Amud were either dejected or enraged. Ali Hamdallah, a truck driver, lives in a large white house 100 yards from the settlers' new villa. Although he was born in the house in 1956 the courts have been trying to evict him on the grounds that it was illegally constructed half a century ago. He said: "I was waiting here last night to see if a settler would try to come and take my house. If he did I would have killed him and then they would have killed me."

The man who financed the purchase of the houses taken over by settlers this week as well as a further 3.5 acres of Ras al-Amud is Irving Moskowitz, an American multi-millionaire whose wealth comes from private hospitals and one of the world's biggest bingo parlours in Long Beach, California. Batya Klein said the three settler families rented from Dr Moskowitz, whom she described as "a warm and friendly man".

The settlers said they had paid Palestinians who were renting the property for vacant possession. But at both houses there were disconsolate groups of Palestinians who said they had just been evicted. Imad Hamad, 30, who kept a bus and a mini-bus on land which had also been taken over said: "People who really own things don't



Property rights: Palestinians throwing stones at Jewish settlers in Ras al-Amud yesterday

Photograph: Reuters

### PROFILE OF IRVING MOSKOWITZ

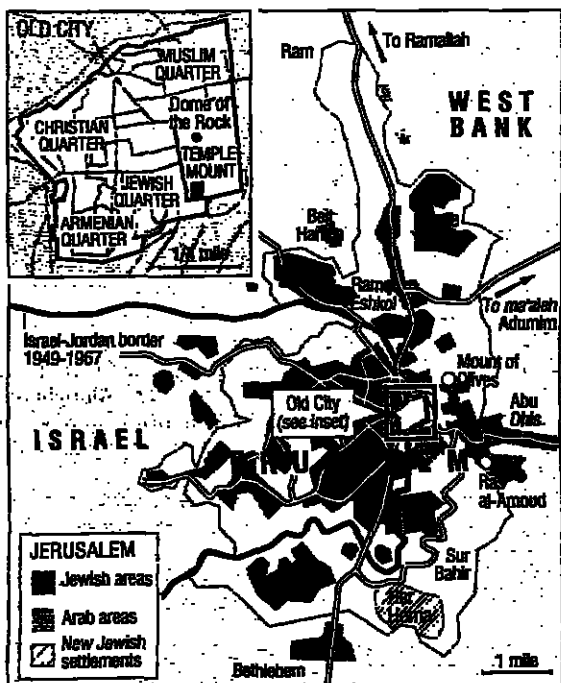
#### Miami millionaire who funds the settlements

The takeover of houses in Ras al-Amud was funded by Dr Irving Moskowitz, an American multi-millionaire living in Miami. He once said he wants "to do everything I possibly can to help reclaim Jerusalem for the Jewish people".

He made his money from private hospitals and a bingo parlour in Long Beach, California. He usually acts through an organisation called Ateret Cohanim (Crown of Priests) dedicated to Judaizing the older parts of Jerusalem, where it has installed 600 settlers. Over the

years, Dr Moskowitz has given them £1.5m. He is closely allied to the government of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Ateret Cohanim was accused of using semi-legal means in a government report four years ago. The settlers who moved into Ras al-Amud yesterday claimed to belong to no organisation, but later admitted to a connection with Ateret Cohanim. Dr Moskowitz also owns land in Ras al-Amud on which he wants to build a Jewish settlement of 132 houses.



government did not approve of the takeover. His office said that it had known about it only a short time before it happened. But the settlers were sure that Mr Netanyahu was with them in spirit. Mr Torossian said: "He knew what we were doing. He supports building in Jerusalem."

The settlers' move into Ras al-Amud is also a sharp rebuff to Madeleine Albright, the United States Secretary of State, who last week directly called in a speech in Jerusalem for a "time out" on further Jewish settlements. She also appeared to have persuaded Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, to arrest over 100 alleged members of Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation which is believed by Israel to have sent the suicide bombers who have killed Israelis in two attacks.

Inside the villa, now decorated with Israeli flags and defended by about 50 paramilitary police, there was a mood of jubilation. Although the govern-

come like thieves in the middle of the night." He pointed to where the settlers had used a tow-truck to rip up one of his gateposts out of the concrete.

Danny Seidemann, a lawyer for some of the Ras al-Amud residents, said it was wrong for Mr Netanyahu to say his legal options were limited. "The government and the police had an absolute right to stop this on general security grounds under a ruling by the attorney general in 1991," he said. "This will make Jerusalem like Hebron, a city of hate. It isn't a level playing field on property rights since Palestinians have had one third of their land in the city expropriated."

Benny Elon, a member of the Knesset (parliament) from the radical right, speaking outside the seized villa, agrees that the legal technicalities do not matter. He said when Ras al-Amud becomes a larger settlement it will stop Palestinians ever claiming even part of Jerusalem as their capital. He added: "This is not a debate. This is a war."

### News Release

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## As the conkers fall, France has a lesson for our schools

Just as in Britain, the new school year in France has produced heated exchanges about the plans for educational reform. But the French, with a tradition of centralised, old-fashioned schooling, seem to be heading in the opposite direction to us – they want more creativity and less control. So what is going on? Do they know something we don't? Our correspondent, with a young son at school in Paris, investigates.

France is a country of immutable rhythms. The grapes are being harvested, conkers are falling, unheeded, from the trees, children are back at school and the education minister is threatening to reform the French education system.

The new school year has started with another ritual debate: are school satchels too heavy? French school-children, like bag-ladies, tend to carry all their possessions with them. The chic item this autumn, for boys and girls alike, is the wheeled-satchel, which resembles the overnight bag popularised by flight attendants.

Charlie, aged 7, has been advised by his school-friends that when you reach the heights of his new class – CE1, or the second year of primary school proper – it is no longer cool to wear your satchel on your back. If your parents refuse to provide you with wheels, you must carry your huge bag in your hand, with the correct degree of pained insouciance.

Now that he has moved up one class, the iron grip of the French education system is beginning to tighten on Charlie. School for seven- and eight-year-olds consists of the five Rs: reading, writing, arithmetic, religion and running around the playground. There is little art and no geography or history. Reading starts later in France. Charlie already reads perfectly in English. But in French he and his French classmates remain at a basic level. "Toto the snail has hay-fever." (Lucky Toto, you might say, if it saves him from being eaten in garlic).

The school day is composed mostly of copying from the blackboard, and dictation to improve the pupils' handwriting, spelling and grammar. Creative writing is unknown. Project work exists only on the re-

ligious lessons, where Charlie and his classmates are studying the life of Mother Teresa. (Diana, Princess of Wales, whose fatal car accident occurred a half mile from the school, also received an honourable mention from the teacher.)

Charlie goes to a Catholic, and therefore private school, but one under contract to the state and generously subsidised, in return for obedience to the national curriculum. The time when education ministers knew exactly what each child in France was studying at each hour of the day is long gone. But much – almost certainly too much – remains controlled from the centre.

The French attitude to the French education system is like the British attitude to the British justice system: a simultaneous belief that it is the best in the world and riddled with failings. The most common criticism is that the emphasis on the basics, and the reliance on rote learning, produces minds which are literate, well-informed but lacking in initiative and creativity. A survey last week suggested that some schools

BY JOHN LICHFIELD

were not even delivering the basics very well: it found that one in 10 young French people presenting themselves for induction for national service could not read properly.

The other criticism is that the system is over-administered, too centrally directed and too much under the chalky thumb of the teaching unions. In other words schools in France are run for the benefit of bureaucrats and teachers, not pupils.

This, in essence, is the view of Claude Allègre, the son of a teacher, a former university professor and administrator, and now the Socialist minister for education, research and technology. Even before the left won the general election in June, Mr Allègre announced that his ambition was to "get the fat off the mammoth" of the French education system. He plans to reduce the number of directorates in the vast education ministry from 19 to 10 and to transfer surplus officials to university and local school administrations. The aim is to promote local and regional decision-making and to give teachers more sense of independence and initiative.

Mr Allègre is one of most interesting members of the new government; a jovial, irascible man who, unusually for a French politician, or politicians anywhere, speaks with both humour and common sense. Though not young – he is 60 – Mr Allègre is one of the most new-Labourish of ministers in Lionel Jospin's government, and the closest personally to Jospin himself.

In the space of a couple of days, he criticised the high level of absenteeism by teachers in state schools and their habit of awarding themselves training days in term-time, even though they have the shortest teaching year in the EU. Within a week of the *renouveau des classes*, a senior teacher at one of the snobbiest state lycées in Paris informed his pupils that he would be away for two weeks on a pottery course.

The teaching unions screamed at Mr Allègre, but the subtext of his remarks was clear. Unlike other education ministers – especially Socialist education ministers – he would not be held in the corporatist vice of the cosy relationship between the education ministry and the education profession.

Plans are being made to arrange a meeting in Paris shortly between Mr Allègre and his British counterpart, David Blunkett. One can imagine the two men getting on well, even though, in some respects, they are facing in opposite directions.

Mr Blunkett is pursuing the movement towards basic disciplines and accountability in British schools and away from the looser, and more imaginative, approaches which became common in the 1970s and 1980s.

Mr Allègre's aim is to reduce the Paris-controlled, curriculum-led, predictability of French education and to allow schools, and teachers, more freedom.

Both men could be right. In theory, France and Britain could converge on an approach which preserves the best of both systems: encouraging more creativity in France and more drilling in the basic skills in Britain.

Charlie did not thrive in a British system which plunged him into creative writing projects (The Ancient Egyptians; the Blitz) before he even knew how to form his letters properly.

In France his powers of concentration and his hand-writing have been miraculously improved. But he is beginning to be unimpressed by the health problems of Toto the Snail.



By the book: A page from the Madeline traditional French storybook series. Children in France are subjected to a far more traditional regime than their UK counterparts  
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...they wouldn't  
...later

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**Silence Is**



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Small children, some as young as three and four, are now being given daily sessions of psychoanalysis. Over the top? Certainly not, say the analysts. Wendy Wallace reports on children who talk quite naturally about all sorts of things that they wouldn't mention a few years later.

In the waiting-room of the Anna Freud Centre in Hampstead, north London, alongside the *New Yorkers* and *Elles*, are the *Glenn Book of Fair Stories* and Richard Scarry. Outside, in the hardwood splendour of the hall, a woman in a bright shirt and sensible sandals is negotiating with a plump little girl on the stairs. "You can't keep hitting people," she says, as a plastic pencil case comes flying down. "It doesn't get you anywhere."

Hampstead is the therapy capital of Britain but here in Maresfield Gardens, a few hours away from the Freud Museum, it is not adults who come to talk over their worries and examine their inner selves, but small children. The Anna Freud Centre was created by Sigmund Freud's daughter during the Second World War to care for children traumatised by the Blitz. Now it offers psychological services to children and their families and has some 50 children having long-term treatment of up to two years, half of them coming four or five times a week for psychoanalysis. The youngest patients are three years old.

The by response to this tends to be that whether or not there's anything wrong with these children, the parents must be mad. Who in their right mind would impose the tyranny of a daily therapy session on a preschooler? But the centre's director, Julia Fabricius, says that tiny children make ideal candidates for full-time psychoanalysis. "I would like to see more of the under-fives," she says. "They end up coming at eight or nine. But a year when you're four is better than three years when you're nine. All sorts of things that we don't talk about later in life - sex, death, babies - a small child talks about just like that."

Julia Fabricius, herself a Freudian analyst, is attuned to the inner world of small children. In the consulting room, she has been Seated to her chair (by a little girl who had suffered a lot of losses) and didn't want to go on holiday, regularly gets down on all fours to play complicated games of hide-and-seek, and is surrounded by letters and drawings with children who

wouldn't speak. "You're trying to give the child a space which is safe in every way," she says. "Where all sorts of things can be expressed, and gradually be understood."

Upstairs, in the centre's consulting rooms, there are small couches. But children tend to lie on them. They bounce on them, or put on the cushions to construct castles. And their play informs the therapist. "You're trying to give the child a space which is safe in every way," she says. "Where all sorts of things can be expressed, and gradually be understood."

ish ways - through the media of paint and Plasticine and water. Children are allowed to make a mess in their 50-minute sessions. It's important for them to see, says a senior child therapist, Rose Edgcombe, that mess is all right, that it can exist, then be cleared away. And their play informs the therapist. "You're trying to give the child a space which is safe in every way," she says. "Where all sorts of things can be expressed, and gradually be understood."

Rose Edgcombe. "You get a sense of what worries the child and what he does about it. Up to the age of five or six, the child may instantly start playing out stories. Then the curtains start coming down."

Full psychoanalysis for children is at the pinnacle of a range of services the centre offers families who are struggling with their children. So far this year, 99 people have approached the support service where par-

ents can talk over their worries with a trained child therapist, and 15 children displaying various degrees of distress are enrolled in the centre's nursery. Only a small minority of the troubled children assessed are advised to embark on full therapy.

Colin, now aged six, was one of them. He has recently finished two years of psychoanalysis, which began when he was enrolled in the centre's nursery at the age of four, and continued through his first year of primary school. His grandmother Nancy Osborn, who looks after him, believes he has benefited. "I think it helped him to believe in himself and get some self-worth," she says.

Colin's mother, Nancy's daughter, is mentally ill. His father is an alcoholic. The two struggled to care for him until he was three, then couldn't cope any more. Colin's mother had spent long periods in hospital; his father has hobbled in and out of his life.

"Colin has had a very... His early life was very... his grandmother says. The words never quite materialise. She has looked after him for the past three years.

But the little boy was slow to speak, and cautious with other children. He was very, very good - except when he had violent temper tantrums. Despite being bright, he couldn't colour in a picture or write his name. "It all pointed to a lack of confidence and a bit of insecurity," says Nancy Osborn. "They consulted me and his mother, and felt maybe he could do with a bit of help."

How did she explain it to the child?

"They call her a special friend. They don't say you're going to have psychoanalysis, just that you're going each day to talk and play." Sometimes Colin didn't want to go but they stuck with it, going four days a week for two years. His grandmother is sure it was worth it. "He seems such a well-balanced, well-adjusted child, and such a nice companion," she says. "But I think if we hadn't had that help, he would have been more anxious and insecure. Quite definitely I can say that therapy has helped him."

Colin is now doing well in a mainstream school. The process of psychoanalysis with children - as with adults - involves the analyst reflecting the patient's view of the world back to them, but with more light let in. Children, like adults, can be helped to understand themselves, says Julia Fabricius. "A lot of people do not know what they're feeling. Just to be able to know it and name it is a great gain. If you can go farther and understand why you are feeling it, so much the better."

In Colin's case, the main causes of his disturbance seem fairly clear. But it is not always the case. "People tend to think that small children are happy," says Rose

Edgcombe. "They can understand that abused or neglected children may have difficulties, but they don't expect it of ordinary children in ordinary families."

There was no obvious reason why Chloe Goodman (not her real name) by the age of three didn't sleep, wouldn't feed herself and was reluctant to socialise with other children at nursery school. The nursery suggested an educational psychologist but her mother took Chloe for assessment at the Anna Freud Centre, where staff recommended full psychoanalysis. "I panicked," says Deborah Goodman. "I think because it was five days a week, I was shocked. But that's how they work with children, to build a relationship and give continuity."

Mrs Goodman didn't discuss her daughter's intensive therapy with friends. "I found that the response is that people are very scared to see that they may have a part to play in their children's development. They would rather the child was diagnosed with an illness than with an emotional difficulty."

But she took Chloe every weekday for more than a year, for sessions which she did not sit in on. "I know she did a lot of playing and drawing, and played a lot with little figures. I had a sense that she was coming out feeling very happy and relaxed."

Chloe gradually stopped coming into her parents' bed every two hours, and her eating became less erratic. By the time she started primary school, the sessions were cut down to four per week, and Chloe had made a lot of progress.

The Anna Freud Centre is one of only a handful of places in Britain where children can receive full psychoanalysis. Payment is on a sliding scale according to means; not all the parents are the rich and inverted stuff of Hampstead stereotype. Around one-third of children are from low-income families and contribute only £2.50 a week. A few pay the going market rate for full-time therapy - about £8,000-£9,000 per year. A few children are paid for by their local health authority. Parents are usually seen once a week by a separate therapist to discuss their child's progress and their role in it.

But full-time therapy is not for any child, says Julia Fabricius. "There is a cost to the child's life," she says. "So he or she needs to be in some trouble - bullying or being bullied, with no friends, unable to separate from mother, underperforming at school. And the school has tried, the parents have tried and failed to make any difference. In a child of three, four or five, when development is galloping along, there is room for things to go rapidly wrong but also to go right. There is huge potential to do good."

## Children on the couch: Is three the perfect age to meet your shrink?

ILLUSTRATION: ROBIN G. EVLIER



DR PHIL HAMMOND

We can't tell how often they do it or whether they're any good at it

"Hello, the Infirmary."  
"Hello, who am I speaking to?"  
"Switchboard."  
"Could you be a bit more specific?"  
"Maureen on switchboard."  
"Hello Maureen. My name's Phil."  
"And?"  
"Well, I've been referred to Mr Brylson for my periods..."  
"Just putting you through."  
"Stop. I don't want to be put through. I want your opinion."

"On your periods?"  
"On Mr Brylson. I've got my Patient's Charter in front of me and it says that I have a right to be referred to a consultant acceptable to me."

"So?"  
"I know nothing at all about Mr Brylson. So how can I tell if he's acceptable?"

"Have you asked the GP?"  
"He says he's a good chap and he's got the shortest waiting list. But does that mean he's efficient and works very hard? Or is he so bad, no one wants to see him?"

"I did overhear him in the staff canteen saying his golf handicap had gone up from five to 15 in the last two years."

"Yes, but that could mean he's playing less golf because he's putting more hours in as a doctor - or that he's playing the same amount and losing his hand-eye co-ordination."

"Well, he took five goes to master the Mexican salad..."

"Can't you give me anything more concrete?"  
"Not officially. We're allowed to tell the public who the consultants are and roughly what they do - but not how often they do it and whether they're any good at it."

"And unofficially?"

"I couldn't say."  
"That's what the BMA said: 'All our consultants are highly trained - we cannot recommend individuals.'"

"So why are you asking me?"  
"I just thought that if anyone

knows what really goes on in a hospital, it's those incredibly helpful switchboard operators. I mean, you must hear everything."

"Well, Doris in theatre doesn't reckon much to Mr Brylson's knots, but I've never heard a patient complain. In fact, Cybil in out-patients says he gets more bottles of whisky at Christmas than the other gynaecologists put together."

"So he's a nice man?"

"Oh yes. And very old-fashioned, too."

"Meaning?"

"Well he doesn't piddle about with keyhole surgery and lasers. He's very much straight down the middle and out with the lot."

"Lovely. Any other surgeons you could recommend?"

"Mr Masani's the talk of the hospital since he appeared in the Good Doctor Guide."

"Great."

"But Sheila from Medical Records reckons he forged his own recommendations."

"Still, he might be worth a shot."

"Not for you, dear, he's a knee man. Can I just ask how much schooling you've had?"

"Why?"

"Leslie from the library, she's got women's problems so she had a nose through the journals. And guess what?"

"What?"  
"According to some professor in Cambridge, you're 15 times more likely to have a hysterectomy if you've got no secondary education."

"Why?"

"A letter in last week's British Medical Journal says that removing the wombs of low-income women is often more efficient than taking the time to educate them and treat them medically."

"But I'm already being treated medically."

"What with?"

"Norethisterone."

"Ah, well that's your problem. Leslie says that although it's the commonest prescribed drug for heavy periods in the UK, there's no evidence it's any more effective than a placebo."

"So what should I take?"

"Leslie recommends tranexamic acid if you want to hold on to your womb. Either that or go back to school."

"Or I suppose I could marry someone rich?"

"Just so long as he isn't a doctor. Poor women have much higher rates of hysterectomy than rich women except for..."

"The wives of doctors?"

"Yes. And the highest rate amongst them is for..."

"The wives of gynaecologists?"

"Precisely. Rumour has it Mr Brylson gave his wife one for her 40th birthday."

"Thank you Maureen, you've been most helpful."

### VITAL SIGNS

#### Meat rations

Scientists appointed to advise the Government on the nation's diet are preparing to issue a new warning about the risk of eating red meat. Members of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy (COMA) will recommend that people should eat a maximum of 40g (5oz) of cooked meat a day, equivalent to almost half a pound of the raw product. Although average daily red meat consumption is half this level, at 5g a day, they say the 15 per cent of the population who eat the largest quantities have a

higher incidence of stomach and bowel cancers.

#### Silence kills

An information service on bowel cancer is launched today, aimed at cutting the 49 deaths a day from the disease which is Britain's second biggest killer cancer. The service, Infoline, is staffed by volunteers from the charity Colon Cancer Concern. Anne Keasley-Clarke, chief executive, said: "Bowel cancer is still the least talked about cancer. If caught early, over 80 per cent of cases are curable; but

time is critical. When fear or embarrassment keep people from seeing their GP, the chances of complete cure are much reduced." Infoline: 0171-381 4711.

#### Wake up slim

Dieters who skip breakfast as part of a slimming regime may be making it harder to lose weight. Research shows that eating a cereal breakfast reduces the percentage of daily fat consumed and raises the level of carbohydrate and fibre. Breakfast eaters also tend to be slimmer than those who miss the meal, according to the *British Journal of Nutrition*, cited in The Breakfast Report, published by Kellogg's yesterday.

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## What do boys learn about when they learn about sex?

They hear it in the playground or they get it from the television or magazines. All too often, that's how boys learn about sex.

But where are the parents? Celia Dodd hears from four men about their own initiation and asks them if they serve their own sons better, while Miriam Stoppard tells Jack O'Sullivan why she thinks a new book will help.

This summer's most striking image of male sexuality was not of some bronzed hunk on a beach. It was of 11-year-old Sean Stewart, shocked to discover he had fathered a child by 15-year-old Emma Webster. "I assumed it was a childish romance," said Sean's mother. "I wondered if they had held hands or cuddled but not in my wildest dreams did I imagine they were having sex."

The story raises in extreme form the problems parents face in introducing boys to an understanding of sex, especially now, when the media exposes children to images of sex long before they understand what it involves: boys, just as much as girls, can easily drift into sexual experiences with no real idea of what they are getting into.

This week, Miriam Stoppard, doctor, health guru and agony aunt, publishes *Sex*

*Ed*, a book aimed at both male and female teenagers. "I believe in harm reduction," she says. "You can't expect children to be responsible, they will experiment and I believe that information discourages experimentation. Of course some children are embarrassed and if an adult is alarmed, this does not communicate a message. You can't force information but you can make it available to them and respect their privacy."

"It is good to mention that, for example, it is very normal to masturbate. Also, include feelings, values, emotions, love and fairness. That is where parents have the advantage over teachers. Feelings is what sex is about and they are not covered by school."

"Children don't come to you embarrassed, they are very natural and it would be odd if they weren't. And a child will re-

member if the questions are answered shoddily and then they won't come back."

The truth, as every man knows is that boys are much less well provided for. The caring mother will talk to her daughter when she begins to have periods. But for boys, there is no similar explicit mark of puberty that makes it impossible to avoid the subject. If their fathers or mothers do deal with sex, it is usually too late, when the boy has already reached the stage of being too embarrassed to talk to them about it. Sometimes parents will supply a book in the vain hope that this will deal with the problem. But report after report finds that many fathers completely avoid the issue: the days when dad took his lad off to a prostitute to learn a thing or two are long gone.

It is easy enough to see why learning

about sex is harder for boys. Pubescent boys typically find it hard to talk about anything, never mind sex. And the task is left to men, many of whom cannot discuss sex even with their partners. In contrast, women talk about sex a lot and girls have dozens of magazines which explore sexual development.

A few books can be found aimed specifically at boys. Nick Fisher is author of *Living with a Willie* (Macmillan £3.50), which goes from "the winkle years" through to "sex and your sausage". Fisher believes that it is almost impossible for teachers to provide good sex education. "A boy finds it hard to sit beside someone he has just done a geography lesson with and then start talking about sex with a teacher who normally takes history," Dr Stoppard agrees.

The classroom context feels too awkward,

and almost precludes questions. "There seems to be no escaping the need for parents to fill in the gaps."

Five tips for parents wanting to help their sons deal with sex.

1 Learn to talk to your own partner about sex. If you can't do that, you will never be able to speak easily to your child.

2 Listen to your son.

3 Start early. Don't wait until puberty when taboos are harder to break down.

4 Find some good books - if your son won't talk at least he can read something.

5 Choose a friend or relative who will also encourage your son to discuss sex if he finds it too difficult to talk to you.

*Sex Ed* is published by Dorling Kindersley, priced £5.99.

Blake Morrison, journalist and author of *And When Did You Last See Your Father?*, has sons aged 15 and 8, and a daughter, 13.

In my first year at grammar school an ugly rumour went round about The Thing That People Did. Two friends and I formed a disbelievers' club - a sort of Flat Earthers of Sexuality society. It lasted about three weeks.

I never had the formal chat in the study from my father. I suppose it was odd my parents didn't tell me more about sex because they were both GPs. Maybe they were just too busy. There was an embarrassing moment when my father discovered that my foreskin hadn't retracted, and that I had a late-descending testicle. It would have been an opportunity to say, "It might seem odd to you that we're bothered about this, but the reason is x or y." All I remember is my embarrassment and him reproaching himself that he hadn't noticed earlier.

I didn't grow up resenting all this. By the time I knew about sex, I would have been embarrassed by any parental attempt to explain it. Because by that point with me it wasn't until I was about 12 - you learn a lot very quickly.

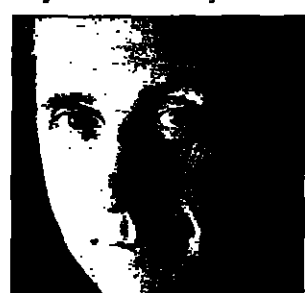
It was rough and ready, but knowledge building up from schoolfriends made it unnecessary to ask my parents questions. We certainly didn't have detailed anatomical knowledge about girls. You probably wouldn't have heard about a clitoris until you were a student.

The conversations were smutty, and because it was a boys' grammar there was a lot of really objectionable talk about girls who did it and tremendous peer pressure to pretend you had sexual experience when you hadn't. There was no honest, confidential chat, such as you can imagine girls having with a good friend. But I did acquire a kind of rudimentary knowledge.

When I finally had sex when I was about 15, I began poring over medical textbooks - my parents had a few in the attic - and convinced myself I had syphilis and all sorts of other sophisticated ailments. Then my father discovered that I'd been having sex in his house so he had to have a chat with me. But it wasn't about the mechanics - it was too late for that - just an angry sermon.

With my own children there hasn't been an awful lot of talk about sex. It would feel quite

awkward for me to talk to my daughter about, say, menstruation: advice like that surely comes more naturally from a woman - though if I were a single parent I might try. But from an early age all my children have been more aware of sex, they've heard a lot more about it at school and the few questions they asked when they were fit-



tle were happily answered. But now two of them are teenagers, and it's something they prefer to share with their friends rather than us.

The novelist Terence Blacker was born in 1948. His latest novel, *Reverence*, features sex with a spirit. He has a son, Xan, 20, and daughter, Alice, 18.

I would rather have died than ask my parents about sex. But because I was away at boarding school from the age of seven there was a sort of formality at home which really didn't allow discussion of awkward intimacies. There might have been mutterings - You do know about that sort of thing don't you? - and I'd have muttered yeah, yeah, not having a clue, and then we'd go back to talking about more important things like horses or school. But I wasn't in an agony of ignorance and longing to know



more. It was just one of those mysterious things.

When I was 12 the leavers at my prep school were invited to the headmaster's study, which was a big sign of adulthood because one's previous visits were invariably to get whacked with a cane. He told us very seriously that, if it hadn't already happened, something really rather alarming might soon start happening down below - it was ab-

solutely imperative to avoid the temptation to allow one's hands to stray in that general direction. What would actually happen if hands strayed there remained utterly mysterious. That was puzzling in itself - for me anyway. Even more puzzling was his warning that other boys might also show an interest and this was also to be avoided.

At public school we were comparatively ignorant about sex. Little scandals broke out involving homosexuality of a relatively mild kind - Wellington certainly wasn't a hotbed. As I grew older, sex impinged in an awkward, increasingly desperate way - the idea of actually having it seemed inconceivable until quite late. At the age of 18 women belonged to another universe.

The way it affected me when I eventually got round to girlfriends was that suddenly having been nothing, sex became everything, a huge hurdle, a nightmare of social difficulty. The business of just talking, fancying and going to bed was not something I had come to terms with, so the whole thing became monumentally tricky. It rather overshadowed my years at Cambridge, where women had hardly been invented.

I don't regard my own experience of sex education as a terrible moral lesson as to what to avoid with my own children. My daughter says there was never any need for us to talk to her about sex because she always knew basically what happened. From an early age we answered any questions that she or her brother asked. My daughter wouldn't talk to me about sex; she would be more likely to talk to my wife.

It is now incomparably tougher to be a boy than to be a girl. It's difficult to get the balance right between being your own man yet not being a leering buffoon. As a good liberal one has to guard against the 'wah-hay' attitude with your son and the temptation to say 'for heaven's sake look out for those nasty boys' to your daughter.

My son's girlfriend quite often stays overnight with him here - they seem effortlessly and easily to have avoided the back-seat-of-the-car, heavy petting parties stage of sexual development. But my daughter pointed out that if she shipped in some boy I would have a much less generous approach. I admit I would find that quite difficult to come to terms with, passing the Weetabix to some hulking skateboarder.



Phillip Hodson and his teenage son: at times we've been, I think, nicely outrageous

Phillip Hodson, Britain's first tv and radio agony uncle, is the author of a number of books on sex and relationships; so is his wife, Anne Hooper. He has two stepsons, now in their twenties, and a teenage son.

All the boys sat in the back in biology. The teacher was telling us about rabbits and getting very red. Just as he was leaving he said with a grin, that's what humans do too. I got no other sex education at school, officially.

The salvation was O-level Art. All the best-looking girls - nudes at 11, goddesses at 13 - took art and they would chat about boyfriends and sex and we'd get hot under the collar.

What I got from them was an understanding about how you felt about somebody, not just sexually but when you were in love. Then girls and boys started pairing off and we knew which couples had done it. I was totally curious about that.

When I was 15 a book mysteriously appeared by my bed called *The Sex Factor* in *Marriage* which was full of

overblown descriptions of orgasm and mysterious drawings. It said you had to come together to have a proper orgasm. That book which I read from cover to cover, although, it appeared for one night only - made for a lot of confusion when I started going with my first girlfriend.

The sex education I received didn't teach me anything about the way people behave, and it didn't help me behave better. Above all I think I would have benefited from seeing my parents in a more affectionate frame - I think that is one of the critical areas of sex education. Yet I never saw them kiss or even touch.

I think we were able to break the cycle with our own children. They couldn't really avoid the subject because we were both on television and radio talking about it. We have also been fairly approachable about our own difficulties.

And at times we've been, I think, nicely outrageous, so when the kids were teenagers they could say do stop being em-

barrassing dad, do stop using those words. We were almost too liberal, there was almost a role reversal, particularly with our middle son. Making jokes got through some of the difficulties if we wanted to talk about wanking or whatever.

There was a real deficit when I set out on my romantic career. I don't think you could say the same of my children. All three - and their partners - have discussed their problems with relationships with us as grown-ups - and that has included sex."

Neill Davidson, 42, co-founded Working for Men, a training, research and consultancy organisation which produced the Family Planning Association's first major piece of research on sex education for boys in schools. He has one son, Christy, 6.

At school it just wasn't on to admit that you didn't know about sex. Once, when somebody told a dirty joke, one of the boys in our group said something which gave away the fact that he

didn't know the facts of life at 16. He went from being top dog to being crucified; we were merciless.

From the age of about 12, I felt very anxious about sex and wanted to know more. It wasn't just information - looking back



I needed to talk to somebody without being judged or put down, to be able to say 'I'm really scared. I just don't know what's going on. Everybody else has been doing it and I'm not' - all those kind of things.

But there was no talking to adults. I wouldn't have wanted to talk to my parents because our relationship wouldn't have allowed it. My dad came into my

room one evening when I was 16 and gave me a book saying, 'You might like to read this'. I never mentioned it again.

It affected me enormously, not talking about sex, how it felt, my fears and doubts. I want to do things differently with my own son, both specifically with sex education and generally in the way I treat him. Every now and again he asks a question and we have a discussion that lasts about 10 seconds, and if he's not interested we'll stop.

Occasionally I might get a bit embarrassed and laugh or giggle - but he hasn't asked that many questions yet, and he doesn't do much of that giggling about bums and willies.

So far I haven't been fazed by it. But I could be if he asked about me or any relationship I might be having. If I was put in that situation I would say, 'I'll answer that tomorrow when I feel more relaxed about it, and make sure I didn't let it slip. The last thing he needs is for me to react in a way that would frighten him or put him off asking.'

### REVELATIONS

The whole theatre was held. It was wonderful. I understood the possibility of the power of being an actor

The time: 1968  
The place: Derby  
The woman: Julia Watson  
- Baz Hayes in *'Casualty'*



I was very lucky that my parents were keen theatre-goers, although not in the business themselves, and from the age of eight I was taken to virtually everything at Stratford-on-Avon. So I went through the wonderful Peter Hall and Trevor Nunn seasons. It was terribly exciting. I saw Judi Dench, and Ian Richardson was my great hero of those times. From when I was quite little, I'd always said that I wanted to be an actress. People would smile, and think it was a phase I was going through.

Although there was a lot of music and drama at my school, I decided at about 12 to join an amateur company called Derby Shakespeare Society, who took over Derby playhouse for two weeks every year. I worked backstage and played spear-carriers, until I was 15 and they cast me as Juliet. I was so excited I'd never acted in a real theatre before. My dressing-room had a mirror with lights around it. Flowers on the first night. My dream come true.

Unfortunately I wasn't very good. The words became a barrier between me and the role. You can't speak them as normal speech: they don't work if you ignore the

poetry, because the text describes the feelings. What's most important is that you have to have the emotion within yourself. Although as a 15-year-old adolescent I could identify with Juliet, I'd not yet been in love in the way she had.

I'll never forget the first night, knowing that it was going fine but that there was a level I was missing. After Juliet weds Romeo in secret, there is a scene where he demands that she marries Paris and she begs her mother and father not to make her go through with it. Something happened on stage at that moment. I suddenly found the emotional truth within the play. I learnt it, in a sense, from the audience. For the first time ever, I recognised a completely different quality of audience listening. The whole theatre was held; it was wonderful. I knew I had achieved that silence, and what I was doing was working. I understood the possibility of the power of being an actor.

I don't know why that scene unlocked the truth. Perhaps it was a child pleading with her father - not something I'd ever had to do with my own father, but I could

understand that sense of desperation. During those strange, hormonal times of puberty and extreme emotions, one does understand utter desperation. I was desperate to become an actress. Further into the run, I could find that truth in other scenes. I suppose I had recognised it from watching other actors achieve it on stage. Having this experience from the other side of the coin with the audience absolutely motionless was crucial to my decision to become an actress. I knew I had potential and therefore had to further the journey. It happened for such a very short space of time that sometimes I wonder if I imagined it, but it was such a precise, Damascene moment that I know it must have happened. My father's reaction to the play was that I was good in bits of it: "an honourable failure". My parents were very supportive but always honest.

Becoming well known was never an ambition; it was always about the work itself. I hadn't really explored my motivation for becoming an actor until I started thinking about doing this revelation. Until that moment on stage I'd never tapped into my

feelings before. Shakespeare is all about epic passions - so large they need the poetry to support them, otherwise they almost become indescribable and lose their reality. Grand emotions can be rather frightening, destructive and not acceptably expressible in real life; by acting them they're safely pocketed. It surprised me that I could find the range of feelings that Juliet required. It was quite primitive, there is nothing middle class and held in about her raw love. Discovering my own depth and the dangerous edge of my emotions was very exciting. It was a good way to get rid of the teenage frustrations that were banging around my body - and it was all approved by my parents!

I'm still very passionate about Shakespeare. I'm cross that this summer I haven't had a chance to see a production at the Globe. Although I always intended to go straight to the RSC from university and stay there for my whole life, the irony is that I've never acted for them. In my year out I applied to Stratford and was offered a backstage job, but they would only keep me if I could do the whole sca-

son. I needed to start my studying in the October. I was heartbroken, so I became an usherette and was allowed in to watch rehearsals. They were fantastic. Instead of Shakespeare I've done much more modern work than I expected - perhaps that's my talent. I don't feel it is.

I've auditioned for the RSC only twice in my whole career, and yet I've done several plays at the National. I have begged my agent on countless occasions, written letters and bent many ears, wanting to join them. I don't know what it is; I just haven't captured their imagination. Success in something like *Casualty* isn't a barrier any more - Jane Gurnett, who played one of the nurses, has done a season. So it's not that they won't employ me because I'm too known as Baz Hayes. However, my career isn't over yet - perhaps I'm planning to give my Queen Margaret when I'm very old.

Interview by Andrew G Marshall

A new season of *'Casualty'* has just started on Saturdays on BBC1.

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## As Tracey Emin said to David Bowie: 'Come into my tent'

Tracey Emin is one of the artistic sensations about to go on show at the Royal Academy. David Bowie, pop star turned art writer, went to talk to her on behalf of 'Modern Painters' magazine. Between them they offer an A to M (or is it an N to Z?) of Young British Art.

**David Bowie:** I think there are a lot of your particular generation who are now getting what we in the rock industry call a backlash. There's a feeling that you sit on your laurels, you haven't got much more to give apart from the first statement, the first shock or whatever, that there is no real ambition or desire among the YBAs to make art. It's more about going to parties and being seen.

**Tracey Emin:** I think that comes through ignorance, because if people knew how hard we worked... This YBA thing is stupid. I'm a 34-year-old woman. And I haven't actually ever sacrificed anything in my life, but I've worked really hard at what I believe in. It's not a whim. It isn't just a little bit of a fashion thing. And when my work ceases to have currency, I'm not gonna stop doing it... At the moment I'd like to have a radio show. I don't see art as just a visual thing... If I did a radio show I would actually say how the format of the radio show is and the show would be more like a kind of sound piece...

**DB:** So how does only knowing half the alphabet feel? Which half do you prefer anyway?

**TE:** Well, I do know the whole alphabet except I can't actually put it in the right order... I didn't read [a book] until I was 17. And then from 17 I read a book a week until 1989, and the last major book reading that I did was esoterics, and then after that I stopped reading, basically. But I read occasionally.

**DB:** 1989 - would that be the period when you really started to discover your own style of work?

**TE:** No, 1989-90 was when I was pregnant and had an abortion and I stopped everything. I stopped art. I stopped reading. I stopped living. I smashed all my paintings up in 1988, and then I just threw a load in the skip in 1989, and then I destroyed everything in 1990.

**DB:** And when did you start working within an autobiographical genre?

**TE:** I've always worked in an autobiographical way.

**DB:** OK, but when it became more literary, like using your writing in your work... **TE:** When I realised that I had some value, you mean? Well first of all, I've always written. I've always kept a diary since I was 14. I'm a prolific letter writer, the most obsessive letter writer, and in 1992 I did a philosophy course for two years, and that really sorted out a lot of things in my head regarding contemporary art, because previously all I could think about was like Edvard Munch and Byzantine frescoes, Giotto and early Renaissance. My head had stopped working. There was nothing artistically that filled it up, and then after doing the modern philosophy course it kinda opened up a part of my mind which hadn't been explored before... it opened up a big space and I realised that anything could be art. It's the conviction and the belief behind what you do, the essence of where it's coming from so it's more like a conceptual idea, even though I don't make conceptual looking work.

**DB:** I saw a recent statistic that suggested that as many people go to galleries and art museums as go to rock shows and clubs.

**TE:** Yes, but also with art it's such a recent thing - Britain's more literary based, but now it's becoming visually based as well. It's becoming more aesthetic with everything from furniture to fashion to nice looking, for example.

**DB:** I don't agree with you there. We are not primarily a literary-based nation. I think that it's a cliché that's been thrown around far too much. I think we're incredibly visually aware, actually. We always have been. I think that the history of British painting is extraordinary. Every century a great fist of brilliance has thrust through the old 16th-century repression. Always there has been a great painter... [On painting] Titian, who had parties and everything, was quite a socialite, but he had a serious approach to painting and doing a good job. Not so much about expressing himself or...

**TE:** Yes, but I've got friends who do that. They get up, they go to the studio, they do their work but they...

**DB:** They do extraordinarily accomplished paintings.

**TE:** Yes, and they go home again. But it's not like that for me, and never has been. Basically, I don't think there's any point in making something which has already been made before.

**DB:** You put a high value on originality.

**TE:** Yeah.

**DB:** Why?

**TE:** Because it's the moment of something.



Shock tactics: 'I don't think there's any point in making things that have already been made,' controversial YBA Tracey Emin tells David Bowie (left © Iman). Her highly personal work, 'Everyone I Have Ever Slept With 1963-1995', above, features in the RA's 'Sensation' exhibition © Tracey Emin

**DB:** Is a more traditional artist not creating another kind of moment in his own work?

**TE:** For themselves, yeah, but not for the rest of the world.

**DB:** That's very general isn't it, because there is a world that also appreciates that kind of work, no?... more people flock to see a Turner or Vermeer show than say a Gilbert and George.

**TE:** The thing is that if you've got a message and you want it to be heard, you have to find a way of communicating which excites people, and for me it just wouldn't be worth doing what I did if I just re-created something which was done 500... I can paint really good Edvard Munch paintings. I can

do really good Heckel woodcuts 'cause I did it as a student. But I'm not a student any more - well, we're all a student of life if you want to put it like that - but for me I have to be excited about what I'm doing, I have to re-invent, re-create.

**DB:** You sound a little bit dismissive of artists who don't work in what would be called the original.

**TE:** I'm sure a lot of them are a lot more dismissive towards me... I had to come to terms with my failure as an artist. And the artist I was trying to be was that traditional-type artist, and I was just crap at it. I had found a way for myself. So what I'm talking about is personal experience... the biggest influence in my life is my life, like my experience - not what I do from day to day but how I make sense of the world or whatever.

**DB:** Fame in a frame.

**TE:** Fame in a frame.

**DB:** Because, what your work is becoming, whether you like it or not, is a celebration of personality, because of its autobiographical hub, and because of its literary pursuit. Your work has been dragged out of the library, almost out of the area of memorabilia and autobiography into an art context or gallery-showing context, which is quite interesting. It doesn't have what some critics would call deeper context, it has a what-you-see-is-what-you-get kind of honesty to it...

**TE:** There are people who spend all of their lives in the New Forest painting horses. They're not artists. They're picture makers. It's more like a craft, or a trade, or whatever, it's an industry of sorts.

'Sensation' opens on Thursday at the Royal Academy, London W1 (0171-300 3000). To 28 Dec

**THIS THURSDAY:**  
Tom Lubbock reviews 'Sensation' in The Eye

## MY FAVOURITE PICTURE

### Craigie Aitchison on Andreas Mantegna's 'The Dead Christ'

The painter Craigie Aitchison was in and out of the news last week as one of the better known Royal Academicians to have taken against 'Sensation' and particularly against the 'shock tactic' nature of so much of the work on show. We know then what sort of paintings he doesn't like: but what of those that he does? His selection of Andrea Mantegna's *The Dead Christ* begins an occasional series on favourite pictures chosen by prominent artists.

"I like it because it tells a story. I first saw it about three years ago but I'd had it in mind for years and years before that, in black and white I think, because I'd only ever seen it in a book. It's a wonderful red colour and terrifically drawn. I saw it really by chance. I'd gone to the museum with a friend and I didn't know it was in there but then I saw it and

realised that it had been in my head for so long. I was amazed by how small it was although it's really powerful, which makes it seem large."

*The Dead Christ* was found in Mantegna's studio in Mantua after his death in 1506, but was probably painted about 20 years earlier. It depicts the body of Christ, laid out cold, feet first, the foreshortened view (Mantegna's hallmark) leading the eye back from the Saviour's too small feet to his too big head. If anything, the imperfections of scale and perspective add to the picture's power: the image seems condensed, intensified. You can't look at it and glance away - it holds your eye until you've covered every inch of dead flesh and examined all four wounds in his hands and feet. The effect of it isn't so much gruesome as overbearingly sad, or, as Aitchison puts it: "If ever a painting was clear, it's this one. It's fantastically clear about the story it's telling - there's no muddling about. It couldn't be any other way."

Andrea Mantegna's *The Dead Christ* is in the Pinacoteca Brera in Milan (00 392 722 631). A recent 'Crucifixion' by Craigie Aitchison can be seen as part of a survey of



'British Figurative Art' at Flowers East, 199-205 Richmond Road, London E8 (0181-985 3333) to Monday, and a group of his small paintings are on show at Wiseman Originals, 34 West Square, London SE11 (0171-587 0747) to 30 Sept

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## Ideal, no. Hopeful, maybe. Start talking, Mr Trimble



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What an outbreak of coyness there was yesterday in Belfast. There was Gerry Adams, simpering like a pupil at *Madame's dancing academy*. Yes, I would dearly like a Unionist partner for the Mitchell quadrille, and no, those nasty, wicked men with their guns and balaclavas, nothing to do with political me. And there was David Trimble, behaving like a push-me, pull-you. Pushed in the morning by the joint British-Irish government statement on the talks, he pulled back later, only to push again in further conversations with Senator Mitchell, making it appear only a matter of time before he too took his partners into the Stormont walls.

But each of these characters knows very well that talking about the future of Northern Ireland is no light matter: lives and livelihoods depend on the talks continuing, let alone on their moving to some fruitful outcome. Yet it is hard sometimes to keep an entirely straight face as the protagonists pirouette and stretch, ever anx-

ious to present *una bella figura* to their domestic party audiences while appearing statesmanlike and mature when the eyes and cameras of the world are upon them.

No one should pretend there is some kind of moral equality or political equivalence between Sinn Féin and the Ulster Unionists, strive as Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness do to present themselves as co-equals. They have been admitted to the talks on sufferance and on trial, because it has to be recognised that they do represent a shard of Irish opinion and a force to be reckoned with. The gamble of any talks process is that they are capable of real negotiation. There is enough hope and some hard evidence to make it a gamble worth taking.

And that is why David Trimble's continuing absence is a mistake, and a matter for regret. As long as he is not there he allows the Republicans to put themselves forward as good-faith negotiators. But making the extremist Irish national-

ists look good is only one of the reasons why the Ulster Unionists should bite the bullet and decamp to Stormont. Let us briefly rehearse why they should be planting themselves in those empty chairs as soon as prickly pride allows them.

Yesterday's British-Irish government statement did represent a concession. To that extent it changed the environment within which these talks are to take place. Mr Trimble and his party colleagues are obliged to respond. The text of the joint declaration is worth close exegesis. It says the two governments would "like to see" decommissioning taking place during the talks. That's a watery phrase, to be sure, but it contains a nugget. It is not just that the unionists are being empowered to ask – a week, a month into talks, as agenda items are taken – for the signs of arms being given up. Rather, they are being invited to ask the respective governments to produce evidence of disarmament.

This puts Bertie Ahern, in particular,

on the spot. He has hereby given a hostage to fortune, by implicitly committing the prestige of the Irish state to discovering signs of extremist disengagement. But is it naïve even to talk positively about decommissioning, given the statement made by the IRA in Dublin in their propaganda sheet last week? The terrorists, it is said, will not give up their weapons now, or, by implication, at any point short of a settlement acceptable to the IRA. Since the IRA's ostensible ambitions for the island of Ireland involve a decimation of the population, authoritarian rule, and a return to the economic Dark Ages, "never" may be the most appropriate word here. And yet, the extremist republican movement is not a monolith; the political leadership does possess some powers of persuasion; the killers and bombers depend, to some extent, upon propitious political circumstances to replenish their ranks. Nationalist movements do change. A newish term of art in Northern Ire-

land is "confidence-building". It has a warm ring to it, implying trust grows spontaneously as people meet and talk together. In fact it is a phrase borrowed from the lexicon of the Cold War where it had everything to do with verifiability and nothing to do with vodka-fuelled evenings in a Berlin bierkeller. David Trimble is thus entitled to say that his confidence will not depend on seeing the visages of Messrs Adams and McGuinness around a table but on the numbers of Armalite rifles destroyed by the Garda and the RUC. What he has to decide this week is whether the talks process is more or less likely to lead to that kind of confidence-building. It would be naïve to be any more than cautious about the prospect. But as long as there is a finite calculation to be made which says peace, durable or temporary, is more likely as long as the talking goes on, Mr Trimble owes his party and his province nothing short of dogged attendance at Senator Mitchell's deal table.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor  
and include a daytime telephone number.  
Fax 0171 293 3056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk.  
E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address.  
Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

## LETTERS

Sir: Northern Ireland has always been a political anomaly within the Union and, one way or another, this has always been due to the nationalist population. The exceptional autonomy Ulster enjoyed until the fall of Stormont was due in great measure to the reluctance of the Westminster government to take direct responsibility for the problematic province. Since the fall of Stormont the Troubles have ensured that Ulster has become yet more anomalous.

These imperfections in the Union have been consistently remarked upon and yet never resolved. Britain promises more than it can deliver. Ulster fears it will end up with even less. Britain insists the Union is intact. Unionists know it is not. Perhaps it is time for us all to come clean in an attempt to get this relationship on a clear and sustainable basis once and for all.

The ties of culture and kinship between Ulster and the rest of the UK are strong and enduring. The question is only what political form the connection should take. There has never been a perfect Union and there cannot be. Northern Ireland is too complicated for that. It is within the context then of an imperfect Union that Unionists need to realise the twin aims of fostering the link to the UK and living peacefully with their neighbours.

Practical security for Unionists must come before the chimera of a perfect Union – clinging to that in fact only exacerbates its current agonies. It is time to do a deal.  
NICK MARTIN-CLARK  
London N8

Sir: Nothing could be further from the truth than the suggestion ("Greenham women celebrate the final victory with garden shears and muscle power", 15 September) that the removal of the Greenham Common fence marks "a final victory for peace campaigners" – unless, by peace campaigners, he really means NATO.

When President Ronald Reagan proposed the Zero Option in 1981, CND and Greenham protesters rejected it. They vowed first to prevent cruise missiles being deployed at the base, and then to prevent them from leaving the base in

convoy patrols after they were duly deployed on schedule in 1983. The unilateralists utterly failed to achieve their aims.

By contrast, NATO's Zero Option objective was to achieve the elimination of the cruise missiles in return for Soviet destruction of hundreds of SS20 missiles targeted against Western Europe. This was precisely what NATO achieved in its 1987 deal with the Kremlin, following the successful deployment of cruise, despite all the protesters' predictions to the contrary. You should not give them credit for the beneficial consequences of their total defeat.

Dr JULIAN LEWIS MP  
(Con, New Forest East)  
House of Commons  
London SW1

Sir: All who have been victims in various ways of the BSE epidemic are entitled to know the

range of circumstances which lead to the outbreak and how it got out of control. MAFF officials have for years behaved patronisingly by implying that they already knew all the facts and the relevant background.

Charles Arthur's article ("Top scientist urges inquiry into BSE saga", 13 September) draws attention to the open letter published in the *New Statesman* calling for a judicial inquiry into the BSE saga. A MAFF spokesman responded to Professor Colin Blakemore's much-publicised support for the letter with the threadbare mantra that it had acted on the best scientific advice at the time and that an inquiry would elicit nothing but easy hindsight. Some signatories know of plenty of important evidence, where clear forebodings, by a range of suitably qualified people, were ignored, or lost in bureaucratic turmoil. It could too easily happen again if the same systems persist.

All of this would be brought into context with other issues by a judicial inquiry. Its report would, relatively quickly, contribute to a much more resilient Food Standards Agency.  
Dr A G DICKINSON  
Lasswade, Midlothian

Sir: Reading John Willcock's article on franchise reform of the Corporation of London ("City's ancient institution votes itself into the democratic era", 12 September), many will feel that, after so many years under the threat of abolition by a Labour government, those who run the City are getting off rather lightly if all they have to consult about is increasing the number of business votes and changing the tenure of aldermen. What is perhaps more salient to the reform of practices which have developed within this backwater of local administration is the need for

it to behave respectfully towards its own workforce.

Alone of local authorities, the corporation refuses to consult with the national trade union for local government staff, preferring its own employees' club which it has invested with the trappings and the means of a lame, in-house staff association. Despite a sizeable membership among corporation staff, it refuses to acknowledge the union's existence, to the point of misinforming its recruits that only its own staff club is available to those who wish to keep trade union membership, and to the extent that the only circumstance which will force it to deal with us is when we take issue with it through the courts.

At a time when the business community in the City is tidying up its act in respect of its local government, there appears to be no move towards this basic enfranchisement of

the workforce on which it depends for its public services.  
MALCOLM KEY  
Branch Secretary  
Corporation of London  
Union  
London EC3

Sir: The problems of conservation and eco-tourism (report, 15 September) arise because of Western definitions of conservation which presume the separation of humans from nature.

The image of exotic expanses of African wilderness without human inhabitants is a myth created by Western conservationists. Protected areas in Africa often entail the forcible eviction of the indigenous population without provision for alternative livelihoods. In this context, why shouldn't conservation be redefined as "the sustainable use of natural resources by local communities"? Your article is right; conser-

vation is a legacy of colonialism. It is easy for us in the West to advocate protected areas, since it is never us who are thrown out of our homes. And it is as tourists that we enjoy the majority of the benefits. No wonder tourist companies put so much money into conservation, very little of which gets to those who have suffered because of it.  
MIKE SANSOM  
Bristol

Sir: Nicholas Schoon (report, 11 September) states that all female chicks hatched from breeding stock which provides the meat chickens we eat are destroyed at hatching. All meat breeders chicks hatched, whether male or female, are grown as meat chickens for consumption.  
PETER BRADNOCK  
Chief Executive  
British Poultry Meat  
Federation Ltd  
London WC2

Sir: The blitz visit of Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, to Jerusalem and Ramallah ("Hard decisions needed in Mid-East, says Albright", 13 September) dashed the hope Palestinians held of her putting the peace process back on track.

Instead of the spectacular political coup people expected from the "hard-hitting" secretary, she made statements that she could have made back home in Washington. She had time to visit Jewish survivors of recent suicide bombings, but not the slums of Gaza which years of Israeli occupation left behind and not the miserable living conditions caused by Benjamin Netanyahu's oppressive policy. She acted as though she was afraid of entering a labyrinth from which she would not be able to escape.

Mrs Albright's call to Mr Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat to make "hard decisions" before she returns on the scene is as caring as a referee walking out of a boxing ring.

Isn't it time for the US to make its own hard decisions and to assume the responsible role of a peacemaker, not just a peace facilitator. Short of direct and forceful involvement by the US, the unstoppable Mr Netanyahu will win his endgame and scuttle the Oslo Agreement and with it the elusive peace in the Middle East which three years ago the world saw within sight.  
SA SHERIFF  
London W1

Sir: We have overlooked the fact that most of the public life of the Royal Family is spent in supporting charities in a variety of ways – by patronage, opening events to raise money, and visits to hospitals and institutions all over the world.

The difference in style and approach from Princess Diana, of which much has been made, is to some extent at least due to protocol, the Constitution, and tradition, and to the general demand for the security of the sovereign and her family.

Maybe if the Queen and other members of the royal family were to have the misfortune of being photographed in swimsuits, they would attract better publicity?  
The Rev C W CARR  
Portchester, Hampshire

## When it comes to transplanted roots, the Ukrainians know a thing or two



MILES KINGTON

"All right, can you tell where I'm from by my accent?" said the fiancée down the table.

My wife and I were staying in July at this Vermont hotel at Craftsbury Common, which was so small that all the people having dinner sat at the same table and were forced to talk to each other. Our company this evening included a Ukrainian/Canadian dentist, a French-Canadian orthodontist, and an engaged couple from the US. The Ukrainian had been claiming that you could tell where people came from by their accent. He had already successfully identified my wife and me as British, which was not a hard trick to do. The Americans had counter-attacked by saying

that you could always identify a Canadian by the way he said a certain word – I have forgotten which it is now, but I think it was "across" – and so the Canadians at table were forced to say this word, and sure enough the Americans hooted with laughter.

"There is a famous TV newsreader in the United States who is Canadian," said an American, "and every time he uses that word, the whole of America sits up in their chair and shouts 'Canadian!'."

The Canadians then pointed out that almost everything the Americans took pride in as American, from Jim Carrey to Pamela Anderson, really came from Canada: and then the

fiancée down the table said: "All right, can you tell where I'm from by my accent?"

"New York," said the Ukrainian/Canadian.

"From my accent?" she said, looking pleased.

"No," he said, "I knew you were from New York because you were so loud."

Howls of merriment from all present, except for the engaged couple. She looked discomfited and he sprang to her defence.

"Hey, look," he said, "You gotta be loud if you live in New York. How else you gonna get by? If you're in a grocery store and the guys say 'Next?' – then you move! You don't speak up, you don't get served. I've known people get to the front

of the line and then start tasting the different cheeses to see which one they like, for God's sake! How's anyone going to get served if we all do that?"

Looking back, I see that the whole conversation wasn't really about accents, it was about roots, and how important they were. Another American pair we met at that hotel had come all the way from France, where they owned a chateau/hotel. They were well rooted in France, but the reason they had come to this plush part of Vermont was to bring their teenage son to a well-known summer tennis camp called Windyridge.

"We want him to grow up an American boy, not French," she told us. The boy looked mis-

erable. He was clearly quite happy growing up half-French back home, and here his mother was trying to implant her own roots in him.

Yes, it's a funny old business, roots. We need them so much that we even fake them, if what they say about Alex Haley is true. But it's commoner to take them with you, as did Harry Miller. He was the father of a builder we stopped to talk to in the same Vermont village.

"My father left England to come here," said the son of Harry Miller, "and he's never been back, but I can tell you exactly where he came from. It was a small town in Northumberland called Rothbury, in the valley of the river Coquet, and one day

I aim to go there." I had never heard of Rothbury or the Coquet, which sounded far too French a name to be Northumbrian, but sure enough there it is on the map, and if anyone reading this in Rothbury remembers Harry Miller, I can give you a forwarding address.

But the most touching example of transplanted roots I saw on that trip was hundreds of miles away, in the open countryside near Toronto, where a huge wooden church stands in open farmland. This church expatriate Ukrainians – including perhaps the dentist, or even Greg Rusedski's parents – have built for themselves, in the old onion-dome East European style but in new, shin-

ing wood. And outside was a notice which was so other-worldly that I copied it down word for word. Here it is:

**UKRAINIAN CHURCH.** This church is founded in honour and memory of the holy glorious prophet Elias. In the reign of Her Majesty Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, in the episcopacy of his Grace Isidore, Bishop of Toronto. In the year of the world 7502 and from the nativity in the Flesh of God the word 1994, July 18, OS.

No, I'm not sure what it all means either, but I do know that if Ukrainians really think the year 7502 is the right date, then Ukraine is going to be a good place to go to get away from the millennium.



## A modern monarchy, in seven easy stages

Step one: The Queen retires at the end of this year. I write "retires" rather than "abdicates" to mark how natural such a decision would be. The Queen has passed 70. She has done the job for 45 years. Fresh decisions have to be taken about the future of the monarchy as an institution; decisions that would be handled more appropriately by the next generation. If the matter is discussed as abdication, we unfortunately leave in play vestiges of the antique notion of a divine right to rule.

Step two: Prince Charles succeeds as king. We all think we "know" Prince Charles pretty well, in the same sense that we "know" Princess Diana. We see an intelligent, sensitive man who has long prepared for the task. The real Charles is the Charles of the Prince's Trust. No precedent has been available to guide him in setting up one of the most imaginative and successful charitable enterprises in the country. That is his work, and his impressive achievement; it is a good clue to what sort of king he would be.

We must accept, though, that Charles cannot now escape his upbringing. If you are brought up in the Royal Family, you live outside normal society. You are at once pampered and disfigured. Having an imaginative understanding of ordinary people is difficult. Compare President Mary Robinson of Ireland with any royal person.

Step three: The Crown would not pass, as some would like, from the present Queen over Charles and on to Prince William. Even in a few years' time, William, with his father and perhaps his grandmother still alive, would too easily appear a sort of proxy king. He would be implausibly young. Of course the Queen herself was in her twenties when she began her reign, and Churchill delighted in being the courtly, grandfatherly Prime Minister. But that is history, not contemporary life. You can be too young as well as too old to be an effective monarch.

Step four: This is crucial. The Royal Family becomes a small Royal family. It comprises simply King Charles, William as heir to the throne and his brother Harry, as next in line. As well as the Queen, the rest of the Royal Family, including the Queen Mother, also retire. Or, to put it more bluntly, they leave public life and become private citizens, with their titles if they wish, and they feed, water and house themselves at their own expense.

The larger the group of Royals, the more vulnerable it has been to attack. The Royals are ordinary people, compelled to carry out formal duties, which they mostly do by going through the motions. For example, a princess comes to the Royal Opera House for some charitable performance. In the interval she joins other guests of the chairman of the Opera House. Who shall be brought up to speak to her? Knowing her reputation for haughtiness, many refuse to be conscripted. The interlude has become embarrassing.

Step five: If Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles wish to marry, they should do so. The more normal Charles's life, the more effective he would be as monarch. Why leave any important issue unresolved?

I do not mean by this that Mrs Parker Bowles should become Queen: that does not feel right. We must start using titles with more care (which means no more Duchesses of York). Nor should Mrs Parker Bowles be given any lesser courtesy title. No: we would read sometimes in news reports that, say, "The King and Mrs Parker Bowles



ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH  
ON ROYALTY

(or Mrs Windsor) visited Liverpool today...

Step five: There is a coronation ceremony designed clearly to re-state the role of the monarchy. In planning this, the book of precedent should remain firmly closed. The aristocracy, the hereditary office-holders, the heralds, the pages, all should be forgotten. There should be less pomp at the state opening of Parliament, which itself should be considerably revised. Likewise, the form of the ancient religious service should be disregarded. The one useful example for the coronation planners is very recent: Princess Diana's funeral. The Court, 10 Downing Street, and the Church of England working together quickly devised a ceremony and religious service which was appropriate, dignified, essentially simple and satisfying. I have heard no criticism of it.

In a 1998 coronation, continuity with the past could be secured by using Westminster Abbey and by the actual crowning. The religious element, which I assume is still felt important by a sufficient proportion of the population, should encompass the nation's main faiths, non-Christian as well as Christian. Charles has indicated that he wishes to be defender of all faiths. Invitations to the ceremony should reflect national life in all its diversity. But let us avoid calling it a "people's" coronation; this acronym will soon begin to grate.

Step six: The privacy of the small Royal family is protected by law. Countries everywhere, whether monarchies or republics, have conventions, rules, regulations or legislation which guard the standing of the head of state. In our present circumstances, and with a small Royal family as I have described, a Royal Privacy Law would be essential.

Step seven: The small Royal family is funded by the state without stint. It has an exceedingly important job to do. Nobody can begrudge the means. This need not be onerous, because the whole operation would fit into one palace, Buckingham Palace. There would be one Royal Household, one private office, one press relations unit.

By these steps the monarchy could remake itself, and perhaps enjoy another long lease of life. The issue is not whether it might evolve into something similar to the Dutch and Scandinavian monarchies. Under the above plan it could become, in its way, as quintessentially British as the old system. There is no serious obstacle. The Crown has been at the disposal of Parliament since the 17th century. A country which has just restored a proper assembly to Scotland after a gap of nearly 300 years could surely now move on to reform and re-invigorate its monarchy.

## When it comes to mammaries, we'd really rather they were real

Fed up with life? Low self-esteem? Here's a foolproof remedy: take two half-pound bags of goo, slice open your chest, and insert them. Apparently, it will change your life.

Big, bogus breasts are everywhere, it seems, promising success, increased attractiveness and self-fulfilment. The Wonderbra started it, enhancing cleavages on every billboard. Now we are busing out with the pneumatic Melinda Messenger and an increasing list of celebrities - Demi Moore, Pamela Anderson, Paula Yates, Melanie Griffiths - not just bearing manufactured mammaries, but proud to admit it.



JOJO MOYES  
ON BOGUS BREASTS

Inflated breasts have become the new symbol of self-reinvention. "My new breasts changed my life," blare the headlines, while magazine back pages swell with ads for cosmetic surgeons. But their role as objects of fascination stems not just from their obvious sexual properties: we want to know about the criminal who spent her haul on them ("Black Widow Busts out with £6,000 Boob Job"), the clerk who begged to be made redundant so she could afford them ("From Bank Job to Boob Job"), lottery winners who spend their winnings on them ("National Whorebery").

Perhaps it is not surprising that in this breast-obsessed climate, demand for cosmetic surgery is said to have tripled in the last three years, with an estimated 65,000 people a year now venturing under the surgeon's knife. 55 per cent of them for breast enlargement. Banks and building societies report an increasing trade in personal loans to facilitate the operation. Hurray! Now everyone can have big breasts! But who are they actually for?

The popular view is that it is men who drive the demand for huge breasts; they helped create the Page 3 girl, a creation generally unloved by the rest of



Upfront celebrities (clockwise from top left) Melanie Griffith, Pamela Anderson, Melinda Messenger, and Demi Moore

womankind. It is they who, the large-chested complain, fail to converse with them at eye level.

But ask any man who has actually had contact with an implanted breast whether he liked it, and more often than not the words thrown back are along the lines of "weird", "off-putting" and, indeed, "repellent".

In July, even *Sun* readers voted to have silicone breasts removed from Page 3, that altar of mammary worship. Eighty two per cent of readers voted that models with breast enlargement should be barred, in favour of the unenhanced. The only men who can undeniably be said to profit are the plastic surgeons (and usually they are men).

These breasts are not for children - the nurturing of which, lest we forget, is their primary purpose. Although it is usually claimed that breast implants will not interfere with breastfeeding, this is not the case if (as is a risk with any breast surgery) glandular tissue or milk ducts are affected.

### The silicone breast is an icon of our time: the ultimate in short-termism, the ultimate in style over content

No, women who choose to submit themselves to the scalpel say the implants are for them, to make them feel more "confident", more "feminine", so they can hold their own against other women. Big breasts, they say, equal power. One woman interviewed last week ("My new breasts changed my life") said the only women who tried to deter her "were those with a full bust".

But women generally do not envy the inflated; more often they just feel a sense of awe that someone could go through with it. And who makes them feel inadequate? As a girl, I never witnessed locker-room scenes of "Mine are bigger than yours" taunting - indeed, most women with really large breasts spent their adolescence trying to disguise them, and now complain of the discomfort

and excessive attention which they elicit.

Much of it is circular, to do with the prevalence of big-breasted images in our culture today. Would these women feel inadequate if they were living in the flapper-led

Twenties, or the Sixties, when the ironing-board body of Twiggy was the height of fashion? And how will these women feel if flat-chestedness becomes the desirable outline of the future?

Professor David Sharpe, president of the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, acknowledged this last month when he said that his reservation about implants was not about silicone "but that women who have small breasts are somehow seen as less attractive. That is an indictment of society."

He performed the opera-

tion, he said, because women were desperately unhappy. "It is not about vanity, but self-consciousness... An operation is a statement which proclaims that a woman feels inadequate about her appearance."

Reconstructive surgery aside, these women need to conform to a modern ideal; they look at Melinda, or Demi, and translate a difference in breast size into a difference in worthiness. But breast size does not denote attractiveness: Kate Moss is a beauty icon of our time, small-breasted and comfortable in her own skin. I once knew a former Playboy bunny with breasts - her own admission - like two fried eggs. Men guffawed in her presence.

Beauty has more to do with confidence than cup size. And in an age where we are increasingly aware of toxins, and monitor scrupulously what we put in our mouths and lungs, it seems bizarre that women are voluntarily cutting themselves open to insert foreign substances into their bodies, churning their eyes to the possibility of any long-term problems.

But perhaps that is the point. Because the silicone, oil-based, saline, or Hydrogel breast is the ultimate icon of our time. It is the ultimate in short-termism, the ultimate in style over content.

Women who have had implants don't want to hear about potential side-effects in the future: they want to feel better about themselves now. They don't care if it feels a bit different; they just care that it should look perfect. If they lose a bit of sensation, have trouble breastfeeding or suffer the odd sleepless night from fear, isn't that a small price to pay?

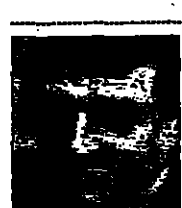
Strippers demonstrate perhaps the most honest application. They have breast implants to increase their worth as a commodity. They look better, therefore the rewards are greater. Everything else is unimportant. And that is the saddest thing. Where our deepest associations with the natural breast were those of comfort, pleasure and sensuality, the unnatural one has perverted all that: it is about nothing but appearance.

In the rush to meet a modern ideal, we are left with something closer to the stripper's art: look, don't touch. Perhaps it is time to adopt a slogan from the boys' tray. Size isn't everything, girls.

## Hague needs to start an argument within his own ranks

Being leader of the Opposition can be a miserable job at the best of times. When the defeat has been as comprehensive as the one in May, when the Government's honeymoon is as long as Tony Blair's, when gurus such as the philosopher John Gray are telling anyone who will listen that Conservatism is good and dead, and when one of your prominent MPs has just defected, these are not the best of times. For a lot of this, William Hague cannot remotely be blamed. A combination of Nelson Mandela, Margaret Thatcher and Winston Churchill would be finding leadership difficult under these circumstances. And no, Tories have not yet started driving round with "Don't blame me, I voted for Kenneth Clarke" bumper stickers on their cars. There are nevertheless some convincing signs that Hague is making a bad situation worse.

It was not smart for Hague to complain, in his rather uneasy interview with Sir David Frost on Sunday, that the Government had made party political capital out of its role in the funeral arrangements for Diana, Princess of Wales. Even if it were true, and even if it didn't look a rather petty case of crying foul after the game is over, public opinion was so obviously on the Government's



DONALD MACINTYRE  
ON THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE TORIES

side that it was never going to be a persuasive case to run. For the public, in their innocence, the arcane protocol surrounding what can and cannot be said by politicians about their dealings with the Royal Family is probably part of the problem rather than part of the solution. That would matter less if it were the only case of bad advice, bad judgement, or both. But it isn't, as a suggestive example shows. Michael Ancram was an intelligent and professional Northern Ireland minister, but was it really sensible

to pick the heir to the 12th Marquess of Lothian and an ex-patriate Scot who now sits for Devizes to handle devolution and Lords reform? Michael Ancram is influential on Hague's handling of the constitution. And that handling has not exactly shown the surest of touches. Perhaps it would have been unwise - and a betrayal of the Unionist rump of the Scottish Tory party - to switch policy on devolution after the general election. There was nothing discreditable about campaigning against Home Rule. But to say, in a considered statement the morning after the result, that it had been "a sad night for Scotland", and then, three days later in his BBC interview with Sir David Frost, that the Scots had had the "wool pulled over their eyes", is just crass. Hague's grudging and patronising remarks may have been hedged by a promise to "respect" the referendum result, but they were still a breach of the excellent working principle in democratic politics, that the customer is always right. Here, after all, is the best possible opportunity the Scottish Tories have to rebuild their crumbling base. The very least he should have said is: "We fought a fair fight but we lost. The Scottish people have expressed their

will in the clearest possible terms. We now have the exciting task of playing as full a part as possible in making the new parliament work in the interests of Scotland."

This example illustrates a wider question: how fully has Hague grasped the scale of the defeat? He boasted in his weekend interview that the party had never been as united as at present. This will prove a hollow boast, as he must know, if the pace quickens on Europe. It is increasingly possible that the 1999 European elections - during which Hague will need to improve the Tories' showing - will be fought on the issue of EMU. Eager to maintain his influence within Europe, without joining EMU in the first wave, Blair may well announce that he intends to join as soon as possible thereafter. He could even call a referendum at the same time as the European elections. Some Tory heavyweights, including Ken Clarke and Michael Heseltine, a clutch of MEPs and quite a few on the front bench, will back the Government - along with many business leaders.

But the more immediate point is that the Tories have never less needed unity than now. Indeed, a spate of real controversy within the party might help him, as the Clause

TV debate helped Blair. The present Albanian-style plebiscite both on his own leadership and his plans for some centralising reforms of party organisation has provoked some grass-roots grumbling. It will go through - but the most catastrophic mistake the Tory party could now make is to assume that its problems in the 1997 election were primarily organisational. One complaint against Hague from quite senior ranks in the party is that he seems much more comfortable on the topic of organisation - on which he has at hand the professional skills of the Asda chairman Archie Norman - than on the overall direction of the party's thinking. He is right, of course, to believe that the last thing the Tories need now is a raft of detailed policies. Opposition, especially long-haul, two-term opposition, isn't about that. But he will never have a better opportunity than now to trigger a debate about ideas within the party. Should Conservatism opt for an English parliament? Should it go greener than Labour? Should it advocate compulsory arbitration on pay in the public services? Is it sensible for the Shadow Foreign Secretary Michael Howard to pursue his quaint notion that the next election will be fought on a

platform of EU renegotiation, under the threat of withdrawal? At the moment the party seems perversely stuck to its pre-election positions. Clarke, who was said to be too much of an old-stager, still looks the more modern politician.

Hague should not panic. But he should listen to a much wider circle than that of his belligerent lieutenant Alan Duncan about when to pick fights with the Government and when not to. He will also need to face up to a mid-term purge of some of the retrails from the previous government. The summer has made it much more probable that both Michael Portillo and Chris Patten will return to British politics. Patten is being heavily pressed to come back by some senior figures on the Tory centre left. (One of them, John Major, recently spent some time with Patten on holiday at Tristan Garel-Jones's house in Spain.) But Patten is still hesitating, not least, it is said, because of uncertainty over how to oppose free-market, one-nation Blairism. Hague said on Sunday that he would welcome both with "open arms". But he needs to put a much more convincing stamp on the party at next month's conference, if he is not to risk being overshadowed by the best of his own colleagues.

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## Aldo Rossi



Aldo Rossi, Italian architect and writer: born Milan 3 May 1931; married (one son, one daughter); died Milan 4 September 1997.

A tower of fresh yellow planking, banded in blue with an octagon pyramid roof and a little weather-vane. Aldo Rossi's Teatro del Mondo was built at Fusina in 1980 as part of the Venice Biennale. Towed into Venice on barges and moored by the Punta della Dogana, it made a memorable and much-reproduced image. The 1980 Biennale, the first of its kind, was called "The Presence of the Past" and marked a significant shift in Western architecture away from the presumptions of modernism. As

Christian Norberg-Schulz noted in the catalogue, Robert Venturi's "complexity" and Rossi's "typology" were leading ideas of the previous 15 years and Rossi was well chosen to provide its public face with the Teatro and the temporary entrance at the Arsenale. Born in 1931, Rossi graduated in Milan in 1959, having spent time in Russia in the 1950s and found Stalinist classicism beautiful as well as popular. Neither was he afraid of the association of his work with Fascist architecture, for, as Vincent Scully wrote, "He is better at it than the Fascist architects were. He regains the tradition more vitally because he is operating through memory rather than ideology."

Rossi's *The Architecture of the City*, written around 1960, published in Italy in 1966 and translated into English in 1980, showed how "naïve functionalism" had neglected the beauty and reality of cities. He drew on the theories of the Enlightenment to argue that all cities were ordered and structured entities, individual in certain respects but capable of analysis by common principles.

The idea of typology, an essential and unvarying form related to use, had been developed among Rossi's colleagues at Venice University, and "type" became an analytical and poetic device, characterised in practice

by simplified representations of the forms of classical buildings. This idea has proved immensely powerful and can be seen demonstrated in the IBA housing developments in Berlin of the 1980s, where Rossi was a prize-winning architect, and in the more recent rebuilding campaigns in Paris, where he evoked a section of the Rue de Rivoli with a pavement colonnade and curved zinc roof in a residential block at La Villette of 1991.

This movement was known as the "tendenza", or Neo-Rationalism, after Rossi's manifesto of 1973, *Architettura Razionale*, for an exhibition at the 15th Milan Triennale, evoking its precursor of the same name 40 years before. The rationalism was not constructed or functional, but Platonic, intended to evoke the empty spaces of dreams and memories found in the paintings of Giorgio di Chirico. Manfredo Tafuri described it as "a search that led to a liberation from fixed contexts and a movement towards a horizon where private and collected pasts merged". In this search, Rossi was "the only school leader" capable of constantly fuelling around his own works and self a controversy and an interest that ended by affecting the very concept of architecture.

Rossi's own response to

places and objects, like the beach huts of Elba and bright enamel coffeepots, is described in his *A Scientific Autobiography* (1981). It is a work of magical charm that, like *The Architecture of the City*, has remained constantly in print.

He wrote, "I have always claimed that places are stronger than people", and in his first major work, the Gallarate Housing outside Milan (1969-73), he transformed the memory of a section of city, standing on in suburban isolation, with long colonnades of thin rectangular piers, evoking the drawings of the French revolutionary architect Boullée, whose treatise on art Rossi translated into Italian.

His imagination was perhaps more appropriately deployed at the San Cattedo Cemetery, Modena (1971-84), with its startling burnt-sienna cuboid Ossuary. Less imposing, although still glacially disciplined, was his Secondary School at Broni, 1979. Other executed works in Italy include the Town Hall at Borgoricco, 1983, and Casa Aurora offices, Turin, 1984-87, with his characteristic large, smooth, coloured forms.

In later years Rossi's practice became increasingly international with a hotel in Fukuoka, Japan, 1988, the School of Architecture at the University of Miami and Disney Corporation Offices at Celebration, Florida,

and an abortive project for Canary Wharf, London, 1990. He taught at Arezzo, Milan, Zurich, Venice, Yale and the Cooper Union, New York. He was awarded the Pritzker Prize in 1990.

On a less exalted level Rossi will be remembered as the designer of a range of coffeepots for Alessi which were marketed as expensive objects of fashionable taste in the 1980s. His work was exhibited in England at the ICA (1983) and at York City Art Gallery (where a 36ft leaning tower by Rossi was erected) and the RIBA, London, in 1987. The closest thing to a Rossi building in London is the temporary scaffolding cover of the Albert Memorial.

Aldo Rossi's ideas and images were influential on many architects who have been labelled Post-Modernist, particularly in their search for the reconstruction of the city. He wrote in 1988, "I still have a dream of great civil architecture; not the concordance of discord, but the city that is beautiful because of the wealth and variety it contains. I believe in the future of the city for this reason."

He suffered a serious car crash in 1971 and planned the Modena Cemetery during his recovery. He died as the result of another crash near his home in Milan.

— Alan Powers



Glacially disciplined: Rossi's Modena Cemetery, 1971-84

Photograph: Bruno Murawiec

## Roger Frey

Roger Frey, French politician: born Noumea, New Caledonia 11 June 1913; President of the Constitutional Council 1974-83; married (two children); died 13 September 1997.

As Minister of the Interior in France from 1961 Roger Frey had the reputation of being an easy man in cabinet meetings, presided over by de Gaulle, accepting the President's criticisms with a smile, and occasionally whispering irreverent pleasantries into the ear of an embarrassed colleague. But publicly he was a hard and secretive minister.

His justification was that these were times of desperate danger. Algerian nationalists had for long been fighting the battle of Paris. They were not disarmed by the referendum of January 1961 whereby 75 per cent of the French population in France had accepted the independence of Algeria. French police were attacked (64 were killed between 1958 and 1962), the Algerians fought amongst themselves, and the Secret Army of the French settlers in Algeria — who were opposed

to independence — began to act as a terrorist group within France.

The government therefore decreed that a curfew should come into force forbidding Algerians to be on the streets in Paris and its suburbs after 8.30pm.

The Algerian nationalists demonstrated against this treatment on 17 October 1961. Twenty thousand tried to converge on the centre of Paris. They were attacked by some 9,000 police and security guards. The Ministry of the Interior announced that two Algerians had been killed. But soon other figures were produced suggesting that 60 or 70 had been killed. This was denied by the minister. The figure remains uncertain but it seems likely that more than 200 Algerians perished. Apparently, Frey remained unmoved.

At the beginning of 1962 the Secret Army (the OAS) multiplied its terrorist attacks and, in an attempt to blow up André Malraux's house, a four-year-old girl was badly injured in the face. Her photograph deeply moved the French public and the trade unions, claiming that the gov-

ernment was not doing enough to protect people, organised a massive demonstration. The minister forbade this. But on 8 February 1962 some 8,000 trade unionists tried to demonstrate in Place de la Bastille. The police attacked them violently and eight demonstrators were killed as they tried to take refuge in the metro station Charonne. Half a million



Frey: first-generation Gaullist Photograph: Hulton Getty

people followed their coffins when they were buried on 13 February.

Frey was held responsible for the events (along with Maurice Papon, the Prefect of Police, who had been an officer under Vichy and who is to be tried next month for crimes against humanity committed in 1942 and 1944). He blamed Algerian nationalists for October 1961 and

the Communist Party for February 1962, although later claiming that both incidents had been provoked by the OAS. Beyond the official police he made use of special groups. There were the "barbouzes" (the bearded ones) and the "section d'action civique", both of which used unorthodox methods to hunt out those who were considered to be the enemies of the Republic.

Frey was accused of making France into a police state. He claimed that France was in danger of civil war. He said that the OAS had already worked out who was to be in their government and in the Council of Ministers he joked with de Gaulle about who would take his place.

On 29 October 1965 Ben Barka, a leading opposition figure to the King of Morocco and a third world leader, was stopped by two French policemen as he was about to enter the Brasserie Lipp on the Boulevard Saint Germain. He got into their car and was driven to the villa of a well-known ex-criminal in Fontenay-le-Vicomte. He was never seen again and he was certainly murdered.

What was the role of Roger Frey and the French police and secret service in all this? This was a mystery that was never cleared up. It led to widespread criticisms of the government. De Gaulle sharply accused Pompidou and Frey of not being effectively in charge of their administrations. But he took no further action. The incident brought Pompidou closer to Frey.

In 1967 he became Minister of State, responsible for relations with parliament. Two years later he was unexpectedly consulted by de Gaulle about the forthcoming referendum. Should he postpone it for a fortnight, the General asked? Frey advised him not to. To postpone it would mean a great loss of prestige. De Gaulle resigned.

But Frey believed that de Gaulle had never contemplated postponement. He therefore gave him the answer that he wished. This was in keeping with Frey's view of de Gaulle. When he learned that Alain Peyrefitte, at that time Minister for Information, was keeping a record of his conversations with de Gaulle, he thought it a great

joke. De Gaulle, he claimed, would say anything, would continually ask the same question, would frequently contradict himself. Conversation was the manner in which he made up his own mind.

But Frey was an unconditional admirer of de Gaulle. To the same Peyrefitte, much earlier, when he joined the Gaullist party, Frey said that his motto had to be that of the Jesuits who swore to follow the Pope like a corpse ("perinde ac cadaver"). Frey was proud of being a first-generation Gaullist. In a speech of 1960 he said that he had not joined de Gaulle two years before, but 20 years earlier. He had behind him, not the history of a political party, but the history of France.

Born in 1913 in New Caledonia, in 1940 Frey had joined the Gaullist forces in the Pacific. He later fought in Africa and in France, ending the war as a Lieutenant. From 1945 to 1946 he was sent by de Gaulle on a secret mission to India and to China, then in 1947 when de Gaulle founded his political party, the Rally of the French people, he became one of the leaders.

He kept his family interests in New Caledonian nickel, and, thanks to this and to his contacts with the Rothschilds, he was able to help de Gaulle keep his residence in the rue de Solferino which he would otherwise have been obliged to sell. During the Algerian crisis of 1958 which brought de Gaulle to power, he went secretly to Algeria and worked in ways which still remain secret on behalf of the General.

Having established a record by being a minister for some 13 and a half consecutive years, Frey ended his career as President of the Constitutional Council from 1974 to 1983. He had been appointed by Pompidou, and he finished his term of office under Mitterrand. Under his direction the council became increasingly independent and concerned for human rights.

A mysterious man, subject to much suspicion and hostility, there are two things that one can safely say about him. He was courageous. And during the 1960s and 1970s he was the best-dressed man in French politics.

— Douglas Johnson

## Iain Anders

Iain Anders Robertson (Iain Anders), actor and legal executive: born London 8 February 1933; married; died Chichester, West Sussex 5 September 1997.

As Superintendent Jack McVitie — nicknamed "The Biscuit" — the character actor Iain Anders was a familiar face to millions of television viewers in *Tugboat*, the gritty police series set on the streets of Glasgow. He was often seen battling

with the grim-faced Detective Chief Inspector Jim Taggart, played by Mark McManus, although the series' popularity ensured its continuation after McManus's death three years ago.

During his early years in Tugboat, Anders was himself sour-faced, but he later revealed a sense of humour and once appeared on the scene of a crime dressed as a Chinese mandarin after being called out as he was preparing to attend a fancy-dress party.

Grappling with the law was part of the actor's life on screen and off. Alongside his stage and screen career, Anders — born Iain Anders Robertson, of Scottish ancestry, in London in 1933 — worked as a legal executive in a leading south London firm of criminal lawyers, preparing briefs for the barristers defending his clients in court. "The policemen I meet in my legal work tend to look puzzled and then assume I must have worked as a real policeman before," he once said.

Crime seemed a constant part of both careers. Before joining Tugboat, Anders frequently appeared on television as both policemen and villains, in series such as *Careers*, *Softly Softly*, *Shoestring* and *Juliet Bravo*. He also acted in programmes that included *A Horseman Riding By*, *A Family Affair*, *Diana*, *A Family Man*, *Through a Strange Land*, *Jessie* and *Hi-de-Hi* and, during the Fifties and Sixties, performed on stage during seasons at the Byre Theatre, St Andrews, the

Gateway Theatre, Edinburgh, the Queen's Theatre, Hornchurch, the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, and the Salisbury Playhouse.

Although Anders did not appear in *Killer*, the 1983 mini-series that launched Mark McManus's character of Taggart, the actor joined the resulting Tugboat series (1985-) from its second, three-part story, *Murder in Season* (1985), which featured Isla Blair as an opera singer falsely suspected of murdering her ex-husband's new

girlfriend. It attracted more than 10 million viewers in Britain, ensuring it a regular place on the ITV network.

Glenn Chandler's tough Glasgow policeman had been watched over by Superintendent Murray — known as "The Mint" — during the previous series. But, when the actor Tom Watson decided not to continue in the role, Anders was brought in as Superintendent McVitie, "The Biscuit". The series, which is Scottish Television's most successful programme and has

been screened in more than 40 countries, soon became noted for its gritty realism and location shooting on the streets of Glasgow. Anders's character mellowed over the years into a wise-cracking boss to the tough and cynical Taggart, often showing a humane side to his nature, such as on his discovery that a police officer was homosexual.

Anders is due to be seen in three Tugboat stories still to be screened.

— Anthony Hayward



"The Biscuit": Anders in Scottish TV's Tugboat

### MARRIAGES

HARBORNE, READ: On 13 September, at Guildford, Surrey, Robert Harborne and Nicola Read.

### DEATHS

CAYNE: John, husband of Marie and father of Nicholas, died peacefully on 15 September 1997 in Worcester, Farnham service at Church of the Ascension on Thursday 18 September at 11am, followed by burial at Malvern Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Diabetic Association, c/o J.W. Spiburn Funeral Director, Malvern.

KITCHING: Alan, died 9 September 1997 in his 91st year at The Clove Nursing Home, Burcot. The funeral took

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

place on Monday 15 September 1997. Donations if desired to the Handel House Trust, c/o Colin Kitching, 28 Barnes Avenue, Chesham HP5 1AP.

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### Forthcoming marriages

Mr W. R. C. Peckett and Miss E. M. Barrow. The engagement is announced between Mr William Peckett FRCS, younger son of Dr and Mrs Brian Peckett, of Paget, Bermuda, and Lizzie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Baron, of Banon-under-Needwood, Staffordshire.

### Birthdays

Mr Russ Abbott, comedian, 50; Miss Lauren Bacall, actress, 73; Mr Tommy Carberry, jockey, 56; Mr George Chakiris, actor and dancer, 64; Professor Ken Coates, MBE, 67; Mr Peter Falk, television actor, 70; Lord Grimthorpe, soldier and company director, 82; Mr Charles Haughey, former Irish prime minister, 72; Lord Henderson of Brompton, former Clerk of the Parliaments, 75; Sir Anthony Hooper, High Court judge, 60; Mr Ian Horrobrugh, Principal, Guild-

hall School of Music and Drama, 56; Mr Andy Irvine, rugby player, 46; The Very Rev William Johnston, extra Chaplain to the Queen in Scotland, 76; Mr Kenny Jones, rock drummer, 49; Mr B.B. King, guitarist and blues singer, 72; Mr Lee Kuan Yew, former prime minister of Singapore, 74; Sir John Megaw, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 88; Sir John Page, former MP, 78; Baroness Pike, former MP, 79; Dame Sheila Quinn, former President, Royal College of Nursing, 77; Mr Ken Sir Roy Redgrave, 72; Lord Ryder of Eaton Hastings, former chairman, International Publishing Corporation, 81; Mrs Steve Shirley, Life President, FI Group, 64; Mr David Smeeton, radio news commentator, 61; Mr Mickey Stewart, cricketer, 65; Mr Peter Townsend, golfer, 51; Lord Wilson of Dechmont, former Warden of Green College, Oxford, 75; Mr David Wildfire MP, 54.

### Anniversaries

Births: King Henry V, 1387; Mikhail Ilarionovich Kutuzov, soldier and

diplomat, 1745; Nathan Mayer Rothschild, banker, 1777; Weazel Gährich, violinist and composer, 1794; William Mayne, physician and hospital founder, 1796; Sir Anthony Panizzi (Antonio Genesio Maria Panizzi), bibliophile and scholar, 1823; Albert Ross Parsons, pianist, composer and author, 1847; Sir Edward Marshall Hall, criminal law advocate, 1858; Andrew Bonar Law, statesman, 1858; Ellsworth Huntington, geographer and explorer, 1876; Alfred Noyes, poet, 1882; Neddie Boulanger, composer and teacher, 1887; Grand Admiral Karl Doernitz, sailor, 1891; Sir Alexander Korda (Sándor László Korda), film director and producer, 1893; Robert Maistre Bowyer Nichols, poet, 1893; Karl Rattus, composer, 1895; Deather Pope Martin, 1.655; Tomás de Berquemada, Dominican monk and Spanish Inquisitor-General, 1498; John Colet, scholar and theologian, 1519; Gabriel Daniel Fahrenheit, physicist, 1734; Louis XVIII, King of France, 1834; Thomas

Shah of Iran, abdicated, 1941; Malaysia became independent, 1963; Resolution, Britain's first Polaris submarine, was launched, 1966; Papua New Guinea became independent, 1975; in the United States, the Episcopal Church approved the ordination of women to the priesthood, 1976; in Tower Hamlets, east London, riots took place after a British National Party candidate was elected to a council seat, 1993. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Ambrosius and Abundantius St Cornelius, pope, St Cyprian, St Edith of Wilton, St Euphemia, St Ludmila and St Ninian.

Lectures. National Gallery: Jacqueline Angel, "Back to School (3) costume parades at the National Gallery", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Miranda Neave, "Silver Drinking Vessels", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Anne Lyles, "18th-Century British Landscape Watercolours from the Oppé Collection", 1pm. British Museum: Delia Pemberton,

"Mother of the World": Islamic architecture of Cairo", 1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: John Cooper, "Thomas Carlyle: portraits in the service of biography", 1.10pm.

### Church appointments

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England: The Rev Ian Gemmell, Priest-in-Charge, Great Bowden with Widdow, Glossop and Cranoe (Leicester); to be also Rural Dean, Garside First Deanery (same diocese). Canon John Saunders, Priest-in-Charge, Horsham, and Area Secretary (SE Eng) and St Mary's (Rochester) to be also Rural Dean, Garside First Deanery (same diocese). Canon John Saunders, Priest-in-Charge, Horsham, and Area Secretary (SE Eng) and St Mary's (Rochester) to be also Rural Dean, Garside First Deanery (same diocese). The Rev Andrew Shanks, Research Fellow in Theology, Leeds University (Ripon); to be part-time Priest-in-Charge, Upper Ryedale and part-time Clergy Training Officer in the Cleveland Archdeaconry (York). The Rev Peter Wells, Director, St Mary's House, Heading and Cullingworth Centre (Leeds); to be half-time Vicar, North Lambeth Team (Southwark).



## Clothier falls on his sword in Dalgety shake-up

Dalgety, the Winalot and Felix pet food group, has been laid low by a combination of the BSE crisis and the mis-managed integration of the Quaker European pet foods acquisition in 1995. Now, after two profits warnings in four months, it is parting company with its chief executive and selling two main businesses. Around £200m will be returned to long-suffering shareholders as a result.

Nigel Cope reports

Dalgety bowed to the inevitable yesterday when it announced a radical shake-up of its under-performing portfolio along with the resignation of its chief executive, Richard Clothier.

Mr Clothier, chief executive since 1993, was on a two-year contract and will be in line for a pay-off of up to £600,000. He will be replaced by Ken Hanna, finance director, who joined Dalgety in May. The company is expected to look outside to replace him.

Mr Clothier, who has spent the last 20 years at Dalgety, made his decision to quit at the weekend after the completion of a 10-week strategic review of the group's operations. The company said his departure was "by mutual agreement".

Dalgety chairman Sir Denis Henderson said: "He felt that the strategy was changing and the results had been disappointing. He took the honourable course to fall on his sword." He denied that the pay-off, which is subject to mitigation, represented a reward for failure even though Dalgety's shares have underperformed the market by over 60 per cent during Mr Clothier's tenure. "We are meeting the obligations in the contract as it is proper to do. I think he was disappointed and inevitably a little sad. But someone has to carry the can in these circumstances."

As part of the strategic review, Dalgety yesterday put two of its four main businesses up for sale. Buyers are being sought for its food ingredients business and Martin Brower, the US distribution operation that services McDonald's, the fast-food giant. The proceeds will be used to reduce £255m of debt and to return around

£200m to shareholders. The slimmed down company will concentrate on three divisions: pet foods, the Pig Improvement Company and agricultural supplies.

The disposal could raise £300m to £400m, analysts said. Dalgety has appointed Lazards to find buyers for the food ingredients business. Interested parties could include Kerry Group, the Irish food company, at a price of up to £200m. The flour milling operation, part of the food ingredients division, could be of interest to Green Core, the American group which has been expanding in the UK, and Associated British Foods. Analysts expect a price tag of around £125m.

The sale of the Martin Brower business, which will be overseen by Morgan Stanley, could attract an American buyer or management buyout. The business could be worth up to £90m, less a substantial tax charge.

Mr Hanna said Dalgety would remain a substantial business with £2bn of sales, 8,000 employees and the number two in the £5bn-a-year European pet food market.

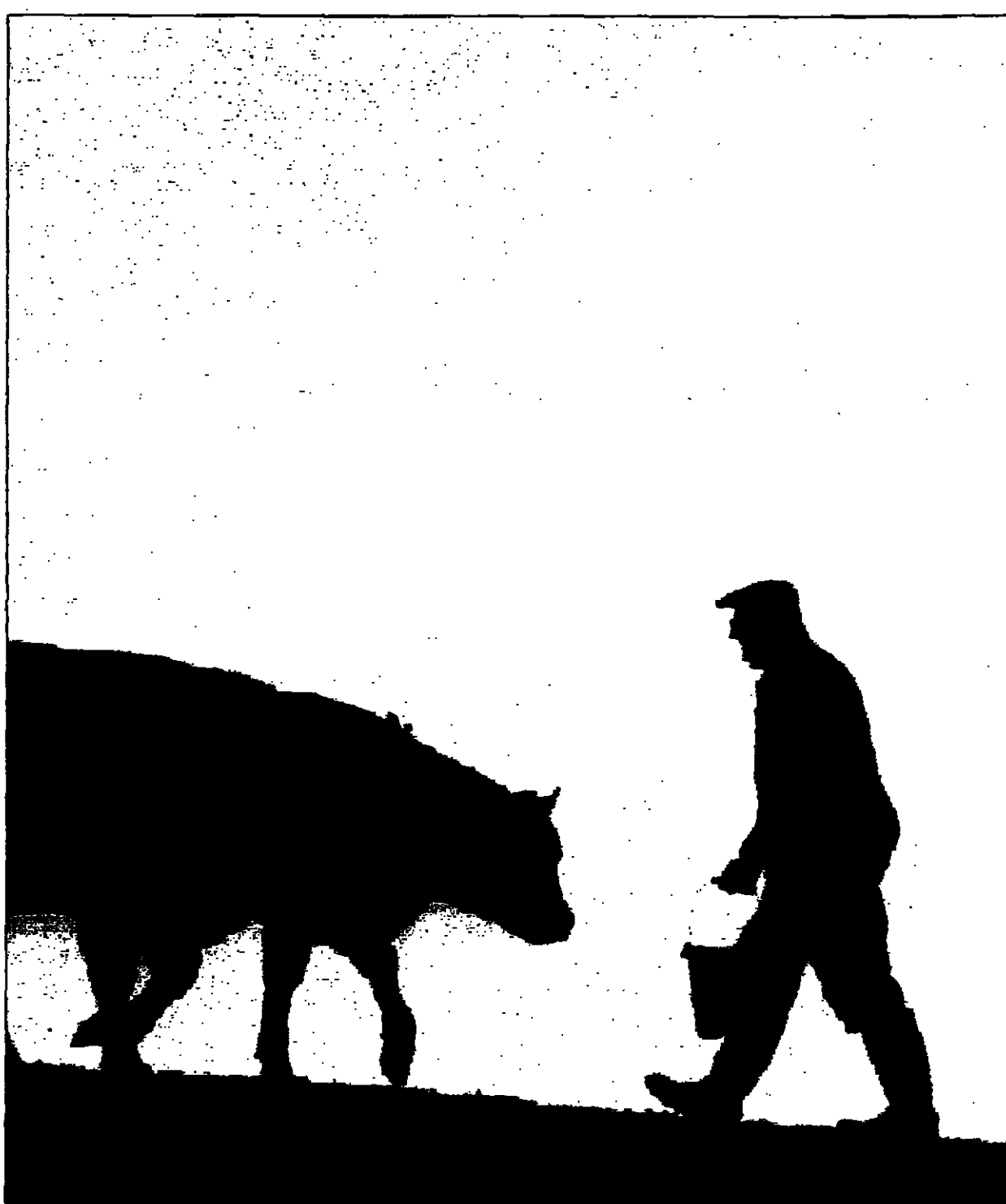
Though analysts welcomed the decision to introduce more focus in the business they said the key to its success would be its bid to restore the pet foods division to better financial health. Sir Denis said the £440m acquisition of Quaker's European pet foods division had been right but that the integration had been too slow. Costs were too high and production record had been poor, he said.

The company pointed out that Dalgety has successful pet food brands such as Winalot and Felix and has 25 per cent of the European pet food market. It ranks behind Mars, whose Pedigree Petfoods division dominates the European market with a share of around 45 per cent. Nestlé, the number three, has just 7 per cent.

"If they can't get a decent return on it [pet food], they don't deserve to own it," said David Laing of Henderson Crosthwaite.

Failure to improve the pet foods operation would probably result in a takeover of Dalgety, ending 100 years of independence. However, analysts said a strike was unlikely at the current share price.

The shake-up at Dalgety ends a dismal year for the company which has been characterised by a poor share price perfor-



Down on the farm: Dalgety estimates the cost of BSE at £12m for the full year and the re-organisation of the pet foods division at around £64m. Chairman Richard Clothier announced his resignation after a company review

mance, large exceptional provisions, two profits warnings and a cut in the dividend by a third.

The year's results to June were in line with the July profits warning. Adjusted profits, before exceptional charges, fell from £102m to £66.2m. Pet food profits collapsed by £12m to £26.4m due to supply chain costs

which included the closure of three factories with the loss of 300 jobs. A further 300 will go in a shake-up in Europe.

There were £138m of exceptional costs including a cash element of £41m. Of the exceptional charges, £64m was for a re-organisation of the pet foods division and £12m related to the direct costs of BSE.

The full-year dividend was 14.5p against 22p last year.

Sir Denis said he would be seeing institutional shareholders today to present the results of the strategic review. The shares closed 0.5p higher at 274.5p.

Comment, page 25, and People & Business, page 27

## Germany prepares to raise rates

The pound fell sharply against the mark yesterday after Bundesbank president Hans Tietmeyer gave a broad hint that German interest rates were set to rise, reducing the attraction for investors holding sterling. Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor, reports on the latest retreat by the recently high-flying pound.

Bundesbank president Hans Tietmeyer signalled an early rise in German interest rates yesterday when he said the central bank's scope to push through increases in the cost of money would narrow once the members of Europe's planned single currency were announced next spring.

The pound slumped to a three-month low against the German currency of under DM12.82 following the comments as investors gambled that the difference between British and German interest rates would narrow, making the pound relatively less attractive to hold.

The fall took the pressure off British exporters, who have struggled to compete with overseas competitors thanks to the high-flying pound. The rise in sterling has made British products increasingly expensive in overseas markets.

Sterling, which traded at DM12.30 a year ago, reached a peak value of DM13.07 in July on expectations that UK interest rates would rise to fend off inflationary pressures in the British economy. Over the past two months currency traders have reduced their forecasts for UK rates while at the same time upward pressure on German rates has increased.

Mr Tietmeyer said yesterday that although it was theoretically possible for the Bundesbank to change interest rates in the run-up to European monetary union on 1 January 1999, once EMU members are chosen in the spring of 1998, "the room to manoeuvre gets narrower".

Financial markets interpreted the remark as a sign that the Bundesbank had limited time to raise interest rates. Mr Tietmeyer's comments came after European Union finance ministers decided to create a de facto monetary union eight months before the euro's planned launch.

## Power firms warned of mass defections

More than half of all electricity consumers could switch suppliers when the market is thrown open to competition next year, according to a survey published yesterday. The survey coincided with reports that Total may pull out of the deregulated domestic gas market. Michael Harrison and, below, Chris Goddard report.

Electricity companies could be hit by mass customer defections when competition is introduced next April with as many as 12 million households switching suppliers, says the Coopers & Lybrand consultancy firm.

A survey released yesterday shows that 55 per cent of customers would definitely switch or consider doing so while only 29 per cent are committed to staying with their local supplier.

The best chance of holding on to customers, suggests the report, lies in teaming up with nationally known brands such as Virgin or offering services such as electrical appliance repairs.

The survey is likely to send a chill through the industry since the estimate of the level of customer defection is significantly higher than that predicted either by the 14 public electricity suppliers or the industry regulator, Ofgem.

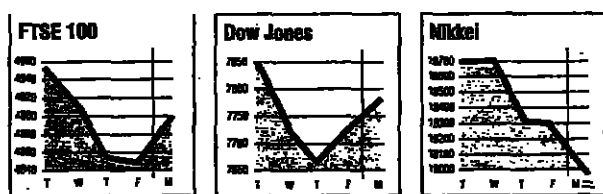
Geoff Green, head of energy, water and transport at Coopers & Lybrand, said there was little evidence of much loyalty among customers of the regional electricity companies even though a majority of consumers said they were satisfied with the service they got.

Mr Green warned suppliers it would be unwise to rely upon a combination of inertia and apparent customer satisfaction to protect their markets.

Competition is due to begin next April in parts of Scotland, Yorkshire, East Anglia and Kent and Sussex and then roll out to all 22 million domestic consumers by September. Several suppliers have begun preparing for competition by setting up their own energy marketing businesses. Scottish Power, which owns Manweb, the electricity supplier for Merseyside and North Wales, and Southern Water, has formed an alliance with the Automobile Association to sell energy.

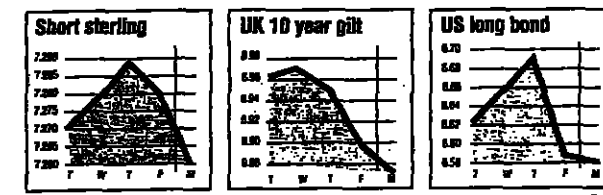
Comment, page 25

### STOCK MARKETS



| Index          | Close    | Change  | Change(%) | 52 wk high | 52 wk low | Yield(%) |
|----------------|----------|---------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| FTSE 100       | 4902.90  | 54.70   | 1.13      | 5086.80    | 3800.40   | 3.61     |
| FTSE 250       | 4836.90  | 6.10    | 0.13      | 4729.40    | 4348.10   | 3.54     |
| FTSE 350       | 2384.40  | 21.90   | 0.94      | 2438.00    | 1949.20   | 3.50     |
| FTSE All Share | 2312.22  | 20.21   | 0.88      | 2378.30    | 1925.79   | 3.56     |
| FTSE SmallCap  | 2274.0   | 2.90    | 0.12      | 2374.20    | 2128.40   | 3.26     |
| FTSE Biotech   | 1264.1   | 2.80    | 0.22      | 1346.50    | 1198.70   | 3.27     |
| FTSE AIM       | 1015.2   | -0.20   | -0.02     | 1138.00    | 1002.10   | 0.92     |
| Dow Jones      | 7783.62  | 32.75   | 0.42      | 8259.31    | 5867.74   | 1.68     |
| Nikkei         | 17985.80 | -316.43 | -1.73     | 21612.30   | 17303.65  | 0.85     |
| Hong Kong      | 14830.65 | 160.19  | 1.11      | 16873.27   | 11548.70  | 2.84     |
| Dax            | 3820.15  | -34.68  | -0.90     | 4438.50    | 2824.44   | 2.69     |

### INTEREST RATES

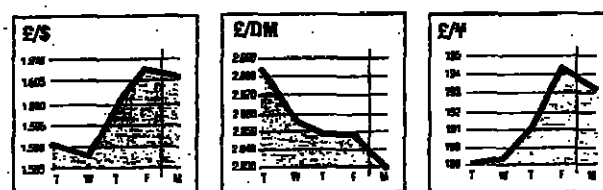


| Money Market Rates | 1 month | 3 month | 1 yr | 5 yr  | 10 yr | 1 yr disc | Long bond | 1 yr disc |
|--------------------|---------|---------|------|-------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| UK                 | 7.25    | 1.41    | 7.50 | 1.38  | 6.85  | -0.85     | 6.80      | -1.25     |
| US                 | 5.72    | 0.16    | 6.04 | 0.02  | 6.89  | -0.45     | 7.10      | 0.47      |
| Japan              | 0.57    | 0.07    | 0.84 | -0.11 | 2.22  | -0.72     | 2.87      | -0.66     |
| Germany            | 3.29    | 0.18    | 3.63 | 0.31  | 5.64  | -0.58     | 6.30      | -0.69     |

### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

| Rises                              | Falls                               |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Eng China Clays 283.50 30.50 13.09 | Thorn PLC 151.50 -14.50 -8.73       |
| Laporte PLC 708.50 30.00 4.43      | Telewest Comm 78.00 -2.50 -3.11     |
| Hall Gold Group 274.00 10.00 3.79  | Hambros PLC 219.00 -6.00 -2.67      |
| BICC PLC 151.00 5.50 3.78          | Ocean Group PLC 561.50 -12.50 -2.10 |

### CURRENCIES



| Pound   | at 5pm | Change  | 1 yr Ago | Dollar   | at 5pm | Change | 1 yr Ago |
|---------|--------|---------|----------|----------|--------|--------|----------|
| Dollar  | 1.6035 | -0.0576 | 1.5577   | Sterling | 0.6237 | -0.67p | 0.6420   |
| D-Mark  | 2.8239 | -2.68p  | 2.8394   | D-Mark   | 1.7808 | -1.02p | 1.5108   |
| Yen     | 192.54 | -42.31  | 171.64   | Yen      | 120.05 | -40.97 | 110.18   |
| £ Index | 89.50  | -0.60   | 86.20    | £ Index  | 105.20 | -0.30  | 97.30    |

### OTHER INDICATORS

| at 5pm      | Open   | High  | Low    | at 5pm     | Open   | High | Low    |
|-------------|--------|-------|--------|------------|--------|------|--------|
| Bank (US)   | 18.09  | 0.05  | 22.20  | GDP        | 112.80 | 3.40 | 109.1  |
| Gold (\$)   | 322.05 | -1.70 | 383.00 | RPI        | 158.50 | 3.5  | 153.14 |
| Silver (\$) | 4.78   | 0.04  | 5.05   | Base Rates | 7.00   | 5.75 |        |

www.bloomberg.com

Source: Bloomberg

## Landhurst Leasing duo plead guilty

Two former directors of Landhurst, a leasing company that counted Bob Geldof and Terry Venables among its clients before collapsing in 1992, have pleaded guilty to corruption at the Old Bailey.

Tom Stevenson reports.

David Ashworth, the former finance director of Landhurst Leasing, pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey yesterday to two counts of corruption after an investigation by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and City of London police. His pleas followed similar guilty pleas last Friday by Edward Ball, Landhurst's former chairman, to eight counts of corruption.

The two men admitted to accepting backhanders from Middlebridge (MGL), an engineering firm which was used in March 1990 to buy the Brabham motor racing name and team. At the time of the deal,

Mr Ball was paid £25,000 in cash, the first of several corrupt payments to the two directors by MGL which eventually totalled £420,000.

Tim Langdale QC for the SFO, said: "Ball and Ashworth took full, dishonest advantage of their controlling positions at Landhurst for personal gain."

The two will be sentenced on 17 October. Landhurst specialised in providing and renting classic cars. It leased directly or bought the items from individuals and leased them back. It expanded from a turnover of £2m in 1985 to £38m in 1991, relying on loans from syndicates of merchant bankers to keep clients afloat even after arrears on leases started to build up.

With the recession, financial problems worsened. But instead of terminating the leases, Ball and Ashworth adjusted the books to give the appearance that all was well, accepting bribes to provide further loans to refinance debts.

## DTI to name and shame companies that pay late

An initiative to name and shame large companies that persistently delay paying bills to small suppliers will be launched by the Government today.

The Department of Trade and Industry will give its support to the moves to compile the first official league tables of late payers, using information from around 18,000 large companies. The tables will be collated and published by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), working with the business information group Dun & Bradstreet.

From this year stock market-quoted companies have been obliged to say how long they take to settle bills in their annual reports to shareholders.

The new league tables, the first of which will be released next year, will cover 3,000 quoted companies and a further 15,000 subsidiary businesses.

Stephen Alambritis, the FSB's spokesman, said the name-and-shame policy remained the best way to change the British culture of late payment: "We want to withdraw awards or quality assurance certificates from businesses near the top of the tables."

But it emerged yesterday that the FSB will give a lukewarm response to the DTI's proposals for a statutory right to interest for bills paid late. The Government is consulting on its plans which were a manifesto commitment from Labour.

### SHARE PRICE COVERAGE

From today we have changed the way companies are selected for inclusion on our share price page. Henceforth we will list the 1,250 biggest companies by market capitalisation together with some popular shares and share listings which have been paid for. Requests for additional listings should be put in writing and will be accommodated where possible.

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## Cable & Wireless writes off £200m after merger

Cable & Wireless Communications (CWC), the £4bn merged cable group, is to write off £200m to cover the cost of restructuring. The news emerged as CWC gave the first indications of its performance since the merger and pledged to make annual savings of £20m.

Chris Godmark reports

The decision by Graham Wallace, CWC's chief executive, to issue the group's first trading statement yesterday partly reflected continuing concerns about the company's share price, which has fallen

steadily since the merger was completed in April. Yesterday the shares dropped a further 13p to 242p, down from 300p in April, as analysts registered surprise at the group's decision to press ahead with a £1bn investment programme this year.

More than £600m of the investment was earmarked for an expansion of the cable and long-distance telephone network, 58 per cent of which has been completed. A further £250m would cover connections to homes, while the remaining £170m would be spent on a new computer billing system.

The provisions of £200m were larger than the £125m of write-offs originally forecast by analysts. The 40 per cent cut in the group's management, with the loss of around 400 jobs, cost £45m, while other provisions included £55m to cover a reduced

valuation of computer systems and £53m of property write-downs.

Mr Wallace defended the provisions. "When you put four organisations together you've got to take a pretty close look at costs," he said. He gave an upbeat assessment of CWC's recent performance, as the company yesterday unveiled its new marketing campaign using the brand Cable & Wireless, also the name of its majority shareholder, and backed by a £50m advertising promotion.

Total revenues in the three months to the end of June rose by 13 per cent, to £51m, compared with the same quarter the year before. The merger combined Mercury's long-distance network with cable operators Bell Cablemedia, Nynex CableComms and Videotron.

CWC also pointed to an increase in the number of homes taking its services. Penetration for telephony offerings rose from 20.1 per cent to 22.6 per cent, with 772,209 subscribers, while cable television penetration edged up by 1 percentage point to 19.1 per cent.

Mr Wallace said bundled tariffs, which offered telephone line rental and five television channels for £11.99 a month, would boost customer numbers.

He said the rationalisation would bring efficiency savings of £106m compared with the former spending plans of the four companies, translating into a £20m boost to CWC's profits. Last year's profits, for the 12 months to the end of March, were £80m on a pro-forma basis, suggesting earnings this year could be above £100m.

## English China Clays storms into black

Shares in English China Clays, the chemicals and minerals group that made a huge loss last year after being forced to implement a radical restructuring program, jumped 30.5p to 263.5p after it revealed it had stormed back into the black in the first six months of 1997.

English China Clays (ECC) unveiled a four-fold rise in first-half profits to £48.6m thanks to a major shake-up of its management and operations over the past 12 months. Dennis Rediker, chief executive of ECC, said: "We had to launch a review into every part of the business. Last year we had to announce grim news. But we have proven we can deliver on our promises."

ECC's problems emerged soon after the chief executive, Andrew Teare, left the group 18 months ago to join Rank, the entertainment giant.

Since then ECC has been forced to announce 400 redundancies as part of a cost-cutting programme designed to save more than £50m a year. It also had to slash the value of its mineral and chemical operations.

Mr Rediker refused to comment on Mr Teare's performance as chief executive. However he said: "The challenges we faced in the business were considerable."

ECC has ruled out further large-scale redundancies. However Mr Rediker admitted further restructuring of the business would have to take place.



Andrew Teare: Soon after his departure 18 months ago, problems at English China Clays emerged. The company has since announced 400 redundancies

## Thorn shares hit by US court ruling

Shares in Thorn, hit their lowest yet yesterday, plunging 9 per cent to close at 151.5p, after the company said a New Jersey court ruling could force it to pay \$120m (£75m) in damages for overcharging customers at its Rent-A-Center stores.

The company, which has given investors a rough ride since it split from EMI last August, admitted yesterday that it was considering making a provision to cover the costs. Thorn announced only four months ago that it had been forced to make a £17m provision against possible damages relating to a similar case in Minnesota.

City analysts expressed concern yesterday that other suits could incur substantial costs. Claims in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Texas are still outstanding, and observers said there were worries that customers in other states would follow suit.

One analyst said: "It's very difficult to know when the next spot on the horizon will appear. Some other states may decide to join the bandwagon."

Thorn said it would appeal against the court's judgment, which ruled that the Rent-A-Center stores owed customers - many of whom are on a low income - fees and interest paid for home furnishings. The judgment said customers were entitled to recover 40 per cent of what they had paid, but under New Jersey law Thorn could be liable for three times that figure.

## ITC rejects request for more ads

The Independent Television Commission yesterday dealt a blow to advertisers but pleased the ITV companies by blocking a request from the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (Isba) to increase the number of minutes per hour dedicated to advertising on television. Isba, which has campaigned tirelessly for increased advertising time, had asked the ITC to consider bringing the time given over to advertising in line with European countries, where terrestrial television networks are allowed to carry advertising for nine minutes every hour. ITV currently carries an average of seven minutes of advertising each hour.

ITV companies had been against Isba's proposals as an increase in the number of minutes available would allow broadcasters to charge less for airtime.

## IN BRIEF

### BBA sells business

BBA has sold its Haefely Trench business for £164m to a new group formed by CVC Capital, a venture capital group. BBA said last week that the operation, which makes components for the high-voltage transmission industry, was under review, along with Ajax, another electrical business, which is expected to be sold soon. The proceeds from the Haefely sale will be used to reduce debt and allow BBA to build its friction, non-wovens and aviation businesses. The book value of the assets being sold was £70.4m. In the 12 months to December, Haefely Trench made pre-tax profits of £17.5m.

### Three on Morgan list

Morgan Crucible is expected to announce shortly that an internal candidate will succeed Bruce Farmer as managing director. Three names are thought to be on the short list - Ian Norris, chairman of the carbon business, Vic Maundrell, head of the technical ceramics division, and Nigel Howard, who runs thermal ceramics. Mr Farmer, who is one year away from the retiring age of the two most recent chairmen, refused to comment on his successor, beyond saying that there would be a planned, orderly succession from within the group. Morgan reported an 11 per cent rise in profits to £56.1m for the first half of the year and is raising the interim dividend 6 per cent to 7p.

### Energis alliance

Energis, the business phone group owned by National Grid, revealed a ground-breaking five-year alliance with Nortel, the telecommunications equipment giant. The link-up, called "partners in telephony", will cut delivery times for Energis customers and cut the operator's investment costs significantly. The first agreement includes a contract for Nortel to supply 20 switches, which route calls for the Energis network. The two companies said the alliance would also involve collaboration on future research and development programmes.

### New jobs at Anglian

Anglian Water will today announce the creation of 50 new customer service jobs, most of which will be based in an expanded call centre in Harlepool. Anglian bought Harlepool Water in July for £19m in a bid to compete with water companies outside its area. The jobs will raise Harlepool Water's workforce by 50 per cent.

### Hunting in black

Hunting, the oil, defence and aviation group, returned to the black with a pre-tax profit of £20.9m for the six months to June compared with a loss of £14.2m in the same period of last year. Underlying profits increased 8 per cent, despite the strength of the pound which cost the group £1.5m. The improvement was driven by a strong performance from its oil division and a growth in sales of munitions used for the Apache helicopter. The interim dividend is 3p.

## Redrow chairman warns on rocketing house prices

Redrow, the Cheshire-based builder with a reputation for accurately predicting the housing market, has turned cautious on London house prices. And, as its own profits soar, it sees no sign of a boom.

Magnus Grimond reports

Steve Morgan, Redrow's multi-millionaire executive chairman, correctly called the top of the market in the late 1980s. Yesterday he said he felt "uncomfortable" with house prices which have jumped more than 30 per cent in the last 12 months. "I don't see a major collapse of the London market, as we saw in '88, but it is still prudent to be cautious and we are not keen to be overexposed to it", he said.

However, he said there was "absolutely no sign" of a boom in the rest of the country and, indeed, there was some evidence that interest rates were starting to dampen prices, although the death of the Princess of Wales had also taken its toll.

His comments came as Redrow reported a 36 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £36.1m for the 12 months to June. The results were produced with a 16 per cent rise in completions to 2,629 houses and an 8 per cent rise in the average selling price to £94,000.

The group said the average plot replacement cost for its land bank had jumped to £20,000 in the past year, compared with a historic average of £15,650.

Robert Jones, former Conservative minister for planning and construction, has been appointed a non-executive director.

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

### Inchcape on track for recovery

Inchcape, the car distributor and marketing group, is finally on the road to recovery after years in the wilderness. Under the astute guidance of Sir Colin Marshall, who flew in from British Airways last year, Inchcape has slimmed down its ragbag of businesses by selling off both Bain Hogg, the insurance broker, and its testing services division, raising £540m in the process.

Inchcape's large restructuring programme, which has seen 2,000 jobs go, is also beginning to pay off. Group profits fell to £78.8m (£82.8m) in the half year to June. However, strip out the exceptional, plus the adverse impact of the strong pound, and underlying earnings improved by 15 per cent.

The car import business has led the recovery. Strong growth in the number of Japanese cars shipped into the UK and Hong Kong from manufacturers such as Toyota pushed operating profits up 21 per cent to £42.7m.

However, Inchcape's results raise as many concerns as they answer. Chief among them is just why the group is investing huge sums of money into Russian Coca-Cola bottling plants. It plans to spend another £65m over there this year, having already poured £32m into the business in 1996. The operation was supposed to make a profit this year, but clocked up a loss of £7m in the first half.

Now analysts believe it could struggle to break even in 1998. Construction and

cent to just over 600p. Though the share price has been slow to recover, Mr Leng's hard line looks vindicated.

In 18 months, he has closed or sold over a third of a sprawling business to focus on high-margin speciality chemicals, cut 2,000 jobs to 5,500 and slashed the number of manufacturing sites by 45 per cent.

As the half-year figures to June show, the resulting focus on more profitable areas such as fine chemicals, pigments and chemicals used in electronics has boosted margins and profits.

Excluding currency, which sliced around £8m off profits, most of it in translation, the pre-tax total rose over a fifth to £60.4m on underlying sales 2 per cent ahead to £395m.

Laporte now also has around £100m cash following the recent sale of US adhesives and sealants for £90m.

With all the painful cuts completed - there are only some £5m to £10m of disposals left including the freight forwarding business - Mr Leng must prove he can spend his cash wisely and generate real growth. There were no firm ideas given away yesterday, just talk of bolt-ons and organic growth.

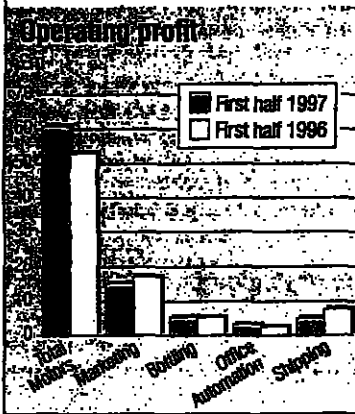
Laporte's heavy £70m-a-year capital investment programme will take some of the cash and there is still room to grow margins from more efficient use of plant space, while volumes should benefit from a new fine chemical factory in the US. But Laporte could spend up to £500m and still have comfortable interest cover.

Though Mr Leng says he will not be

### Inchcape: At a glance

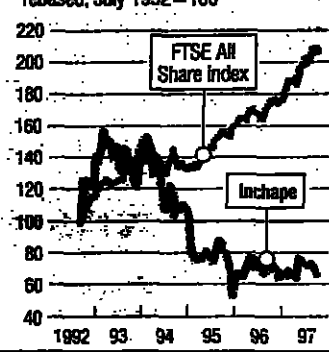
Market value: £1.4bn, share price 268.5p (+7.5p)

|                        | 1996      | 1996      | 1996      | 1997      |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                        | Full year | Full year | Half year | Half year |
| Turnover (£bn)         | 6.10      | 6.30      | 3.16      | 2.93      |
| Earnings per share (p) | 26.8      | (8.3)     | 4.3       | 9.0       |
| Dividend (p)           | -         | -         | 12        | 4.4       |



### Share price and the market

rebased, July 1992=100



wage costs have been much higher than expected and black market suppliers forced margins down. A good performance from the South American bottling business in Chile and Peru was not enough to dispel analysts' disappointment over Russia. In the longer term Russian returns could be huge, but Inchcape is taking a big gamble.

The other main problem is the marketing division, which produced another poor result as operating profits slipped another £2m to £15.2m. Inchcape's answer is yet another restructuring programme. A substantial round of job cuts and the closure or sale of small businesses is on the cards. While the revamp looks the right thing to do, it will cost £55m in all and only boost earnings by £9m a year.

There is also a sneaking suspicion Inchcape will be hit by the currency turmoil spreading like wild fire across the Far East. So far the impact has been limited to its small businesses in Thailand and Malaysia. However, if the problems spread to Hong Kong or Singapore, Inchcape would be badly affected.

Analysts forecast full-year profits of £183m, putting the shares, which rose 7.5p to 268.5p yesterday, on a prospective p/e ratio of 14. The shares have underperformed the market by more than 25 per cent over the last year, even though the group has done a lot of the right things. That said, Inchcape's rating looks about right, given the question marks over Russia and the sustainability of the recovery in its car business if currencies move the wrong way.

### Laporte plays it by the book

First the pain, then the gain. Yesterday's results from Laporte, the speciality chemicals group, were the strongest indication yet that Jim Leng, the new-broom chief executive, could be presiding over a textbook turnaround. The market has taken some convincing.

When Mr Leng was appointed from Low & Bonar in September 1995 the market was euphoric, sending Laporte's shares soaring to a high of almost 850p. By December the honeymoon was over. Laporte's chairman, Ken Minton, bowed out ahead of a profits warning and Mr Leng announced a massive overhaul of the group's businesses costing nearly £90m. Laporte's shares slumped 20 per

rushed, the City will want to see some evidence of decisive action on acquisitions. NatWest Securities is forecasting full-year profits of £132m, to give a forward multiple of 15, with the shares up 30p to 706.5p. Still reasonable value.

### Morgan Crucible back on track

Morgan Crucible, the carbon brushes to industrial ceramics group, ran into some squalls in its markets last year. But an ability to ride out bad weather has been a feature of the group's results in the past few years and latest results showing pre-tax profits rising 11 per cent to £56.1m in the six months to 4 July have continued that tradition.

European economic problems have continued into this year, while the strength of the pound hit profits, which would have been 22 per cent ahead barring currency effects and exceptional items.

But European orders have started to pick up and most of the sterling effect was translational. Even the economic problems in South-east Asia, Morgan's fastest-growing region, where underlying sales ran at 20 per cent in the first half, have left the group unfazed.

Despite the problems, it was only thermal ceramics which really suffered in the first half, seeing operating profits dip from £19.3m to £16.3m. But it is already back on the recovery track.

A £1.5m bounce-back to break-even in the US electro-optics business and full contributions from acquisitions boosted margins to the target 14 per cent in speciality materials.

Meanwhile, technical ceramics is now close to a 15 per cent return on sales after strong organic growth.

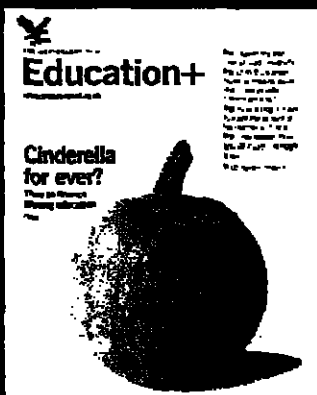
A series of further bolt-on acquisitions, for a total of £30m to £40m, are in the pipeline. Morgan is also understood to be on the point of beefing up its operation at Swansea to replicate in Europe its commanding US position in commutators. South-east Asia remains a slight worry, despite the group's confidence, but at least Morgan seems to be softening up the City for a seamless change when Bruce Farmer, managing director, retires. An announcement is thought to be imminent.

Full-year profits of £112m would put the shares up 3p to 479.5p, on a forward p/e of 15. Reasonable value.

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OF THE YEAR

## Pet foods cause more damage than BSE

Dalgety is one of Britain's biggest animal feeds companies, so it was always inevitable that its fortunes would get intimately caught up in the BSE crisis. When the scandal broke, Dalgety was instantly fingered as one of the companies responsible. It was no worse than most others in the industry and immediately changed its practices when the horrific side-effects of feeding animal remains to animals became apparent. But the damage was done.

Looking at Dalgety now, it is tempting to view its huge losses, boardroom changes and savaged dividend as a kind of divine retribution – a reaping of the bitter harvest of mad cow disease.

Actually, BSE is only one of a number of causes behind Dalgety's woes. The real villain of the piece is pet foods. There was a BSE element here too. The company was hit by an export ban and had to reformulate some of its flavours as a result. But there was bad judgement aplenty too. When Dalgety paid £440m for the pet-foods division of Quaker's two years ago, some analysts questioned the deal's wisdom. Why go into battle with the much stronger Mars-owned Pedigree Petfoods, they asked. And would the southern European countries such as Italy and Spain, really start feeding Fido with posh canned delights rather than scraps? Yes, this really was advanced as a rip-roaring market opportunity for Dalgety.

As it turned the ensuing battle with Mars was only part of the problem. Dalgety simply failed to manage the business it had bought. The integration was botched, costs were left too high and pro-

duction facilities were inefficient. New management was brought in, but too late.

Richard Clothier, the now departed chief executive, has clearly had his fair share of bad luck over the past couple of years but there were also lots of mistakes and the company took too long to sort them out. He is also a ringing reminder of the dangers of opting for the "inside" choice of chief executive over the new-broom outsider. With 20 years of service behind him at Dalgety, he was not the right man to be at the helm when the company hit stormy waters.

### RECs not on the endangered list

The one question that Coopers & Lybrand has failed to answer in its analysis of the deregulated electricity market is, in many respects, the most important one. How many new entrants will take the plunge when the regional electricity companies start to lose their domestic monopolies next spring?

If its research is correct then there is huge pent-up demand on the part of consumers to switch from their local REC even for very modest price reductions. Satisfaction with an existing supplier will not, it seems, guarantee continuing loyalty once electricity can be bought at a bank, a supermarket or a petrol station. Some 55 per cent of households say they would definitely switch or consider doing so for as little as 2 per cent off their bills. That is

more than double the number that have switched supplier since gas competition was introduced in the south west.

It is one thing having 22 million customers just begging to be freed from their local REC. It is another creating a competitive market. On the face of it, electricity supply is not particularly attractive. Most of the money is made by generating and distributing electricity over the national and local wires, not by pumping it the last few yards into the home.

Moreover, even if Virgin, Barclays or Shell did enter the market, they would have no direct control over the service their customers receive. There is another side to the argument, however. New entrants will be trading on the strength of their brand, not on whether their electricity is better than the chap next door.

The other argument is that what Virgin et al are really after is another way of accessing the customer so as to sell other products and services. Here's your electricity and by the way we can also service your electrical appliances. While we're at it, what about a household contents policy and, since you ask, yes, we also do life policies and PEPs.

This may sound plausible but experience of the deregulated gas market suggests it is improbable. No supermarkets or banks bothered to set up in competition to British Gas and two of the rival energy suppliers who did enter the market have already withdrawn or are in the process of doing so. The RECs may not be quite such an endangered species as Coopers thinks.

### No solutions for global integration

From the comfortable vantage point of our well-off, air conditioned, Western lives, it is easy to view the process of globalisation, deregulation, convergence and integration sweeping the world economy as an entirely benign, even benevolent thing, that will enhance the economic prospects of developing and developed countries in equal measure. Not so, says the latest Trade and Development report from the United Nations, which comes up with the disturbing conclusion that these apparently irresistible forces and trends are much more likely to increase further present inequalities and divisions. The report's reminder of the way faith in markets and economic openness quickly degenerated in the 1920s and 1930s into protectionism and totalitarianism may seem just a trifle alarmist; in an age when democracy and capitalism seem finally to have emerged triumphant, it is hard to imagine such a dramatic change of events and perspective.

Even so, the report poses some very worrying questions about what most of us would see as an entirely desirable set of economic developments and objectives. The report lists a number of alarming features of the contemporary world economy. For starters it is growing too slowly to generate sufficient employment with adequate pay or to alleviate poverty: the gap between the developed and the developing world is continuing to widen steadily; everywhere, the rich are getting richer

and the poor are getting poorer while shrinkage in the middle classes is a feature both of the developed and developing world; in the developed world, finance is gaining the upper hand over industry and endeavour with the result that trading in existing assets is more lucrative than creating wealth through investment; the gap between skilled and unskilled labour is becoming a global problem with falls of up to 30 per cent in the real wages of unskilled workers in some developed countries during the 1980s.

If all this sounds like that tired old "third worlder" complaint about globalisation – the whole process is designed by the West in order to benefit the West and exploit the poorer nations and people of the world – that is actually not what the United Nations is trying to say here. The report leaves no doubt that the adverse consequences of international economic disintegration, were current trends to be put into reverse, would be borne by those that can least afford it. Instead the UN urges a more imaginative, sensitive and phased approach to integration. This unfortunately is where the UN's table thumping comes over all wishy-washy. Other than urging policy makers the world over to try harder, the report is unable to offer much in the way of solutions. All the same, the UN deserves some credit for highlighting the darker side of global integration. For the great bulk of the world, the process has yet to yield significant benefits. And if it doesn't eventually do so, the people will speak, with possibly calamitous consequences for everyone.

## UN sounds warning on perils of inequality

The world is in danger of repeating the mistakes of the 1920s and 1930s, a United Nations agency warns today in a report on international trade and investment. Diane Coyle reports on the claim that growing inequality raises the threat of a backlash against the process of globalisation.

The increasing integration of the world economy through trade and investment flows is being accompanied by greater inequality within and between nations, according to the annual report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad). This could provoke a political backlash in the developed or developing countries which would roll back the benefits of economic integration.

The report, from one of the branches of the UN traditionally least sympathetic to free market policies, recommends slowing the pace at which developing countries are opening up their economies. Rather it favours carefully managed and phased integration into the world economy.

Unctad also criticises the deregulation of financial markets that has allowed capital to flow freely around the globe. Although carefully distancing itself from its earlier history as a vocal opponent of multinationals which invest in developing countries, it claims in the new report that the freedom of the financial markets has undermined long-term investment, echoing a common left-wing sentiment.

Finance has gained an upper hand over industry, and retailers over investors. Trading in existing assets is often more lucra-

tive than creating wealth through new investment, the report says. In a sharp contrast to the cautious optimism expressed by other international agencies, such as the World Bank in its annual economic outlook published last week, Unctad says the world economy will continue to grow too slowly to make a dent in poverty and unemployment. It is against this subdued background that the new report predicts growing political tensions.

The 1920s and 1930s provide a stark and disturbing reminder of how quickly faith in markets and economic openness can be overwhelmed by political events, it says. Nor should there be any doubt that the burden of such international economic disintegration would be borne by those who can least afford it.

The available figures suggest income distribution has become more unequal in almost all regions of the world during the past 20 years, with the possible exception of South Asia.

The increase in inequality has been particularly pronounced in China and the transition economies of eastern Europe. Inequality also grew in nine of the 16 richest economies in the world.

The report suggests that not only has growth of the world economy slowed, but the growth that takes place has also become more unequal. During the Eighties, the rich got much richer but the income share of the middle class fell the world over. This phenomenon appears to be closely related to a sudden shift in policies giving a much greater role to market forces.

Unctad does not go so far as to call for a reversal of these forces. But it advises minimising the danger of a political backlash by making sure future trade liberalisation favours the poorest countries.



Paper chase: Another consolidation of the regional newspaper market is expected after Newsquest Media Group's flotation on the market next month. The float is expected to raise about £100m

## Predatory Newsquest plans £100m float

Newsquest Media Group, the regional paper company formed by a management buyout at the end of last year, is floating on the market. The move will make the chairman a multi-millionaire, and could spark another round of consolidation.

Cathy Newman reports

Newsquest Media Group, Britain's third-largest regional newspaper group, is to raise around £100m when it floats on the main market next month. Jim Brown, chairman, said the money would be used in part for further substantial acquisitions, and he hinted that the group could make

a move on United News & Media's regional newspaper group if it came up for sale.

Mr Brown, who engineered the £210m buyout of the group from Reed International, will be worth about £4m through the deal. He will, together with five other senior management, own roughly 5 per cent of the company after the flotation.

Newsquest, which owns 173 newspapers, including the world's oldest newspaper, the *Berrows Worcester Journal*, will be valued at around £500m.

City analysts were divided over whether Newsquest had chosen the right climate to come to the market. Some brokers have

forecast a sharp downturn in advertising revenue which would hit regional newspaper stocks hard. However, Derek Terington, media analyst at Teather & Greenwood, said there was no substance to such fears. Newsquest was well-placed to expand in an industry which had been consolidating over the last 18 months.

Mr Brown said Newsquest would "have to take a look" if United Provincial Newspapers came on the market.

Kohlberg Kravis Roberts which backed Newsquest's management buyout and owns a 73 per cent stake will retain around 40 per cent of the business after flotation.

## Shake-up heralds more job cuts at Inchcape

Inchcape, the car distributor, yesterday announced a shake-up which could result in 1,000 redundancies. It has also been hit by the turmoil in the Far East. Andrew Yates reports

Inchcape is accelerating the huge shake-up instigated by its new management team led by the company's chairman, Sir Colin Marshall, and has now turned its attention to its troubled marketing division. The group plans to close many of its underperforming businesses in Asia and will make another substantial round of redundancies less than two years after announcing 2,000 job cuts. It is also considering withdrawing from some of its existing markets.

However, Inchcape moved to quell growing fears that plummeting value of currencies throughout South-east Asia would cause lasting damage to its business.

Philip Cushing, the group's chief executive, said: "Our important markets are Hong Kong and Singapore which have, so far, not been affected."

He added: "Thailand is likely to remain difficult for some time. The combined operating profits of Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, however, represent only 5 per cent of the group's operating profits."

Inchcape lost £7m at its Russian Coca-Cola bottling plant, where Inchcape has been undercur on the black market.

Inchcape announced a fall in headline pre-tax profits to £78.8m (£82.8m) but underlying earnings rose 15 per cent. Profits from the marketing division fell to £15.2m (£17.2m).

Investment column, page 24

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## Boring old National Grid comes to life on talk of Energis float



**DEREK PAIN**  
STOCK  
MARKET  
REPORTER  
OF THE YEAR

National Grid, probably the most boring of the Conservative government's privatisations, led blue chips higher as the market struggled to dismiss last week's flagging performance.

The shares rose 10p to a 274p peak with the market growing increasingly excited about the possible flotation of its Energis telecommunications offshoot. It has been estimated that Energis is worth around 50p a share to Grid shareholders.

Grid arrived late in 1995. Its capital had been owned by the then 12 regional electricity companies.

Trading started at around 230p and the shares then drifted lower to hit 165p before starting their remarkable recovery.

They had to contend with the still largely unexplained in-

volvement of stockbroker James Capel, which is now known by the name of its parent, HSBC.

The mystery started when Hanson, the departed conglomerate which last year owned Eastern, sold its 12.5 per cent interest. Buyer was HSBC, paying 192p share.

Within hours it was said the stake had gone to the Olayan Group, run by Suliman Olayan, a Saudi financier.

There was talk at the time that the stockbroker had covered its position through an intricate derivatives deal.

Just what transpired is still something of a mystery. For HSBC is still a among Grid shareholders and at the last count was sitting on just over 11 per cent of the capital.

However Hanson, in its anxiety to realise assets ahead of its demerger, misread the mar-

ket, losing £17.2m as a result.

The rest of the market moved ahead with Footsie up 54.7 points at 4,902.9. But trading was so thin there was a general mistrust of the market's strength.

Hopes that after the long holiday break fund managers and the rest would at least be prepared to generate a little action were again dashed. Most were content to remain on the sidelines. As a result yesterday's market was rather featureless.

Stories were few and far between. A Seagram bid for EMI, the showbiz group, was given yet another whirl, lifting the shares 20.5p to 607p.

Allied Domecq, seen as an essential part of any Seagram deal, added 10.5p to 471p.

The music group's old partner, the Thorn rental group, had another distressing ses-

sion, falling 14.5p to 151.5p, a low.

US legislation dealt the latest blow. Thru's potential damages of \$120m.

Cable & Wireless Communications' revamp, left the shares 13p lower at 242p.

JXO Oil & Gas held at 52p as the tug-of-war between Ramco Energy and Ukrainian state-owned oil interests con-

tinued. The Ukrainian stake was nudged a little higher to 11.75p cent.

The foreshadowed Thomson belligerence in the already highly competitive holidays market lowered Air-

tours, the largest operator at Thomson, 17.5p to 1,131.5p.

P&O, with interim results on Thursday, steamed ahead 14p to 681.5p, with hopes of property deals and the Bovis flotation nullifying worries profits will be flat.

Granada, on talk of investment presentations, rose 7.5p to 795.5p. Argos, the catalogue stores chain, continued to benefit from analyst meetings, up 9p to 657.5p.

M&W, the convenience stores chain, was the best performer, up 42p cent to 247.5p on the £42.8m offer from T&S Stores. Prestrbury

shares should be sold.

Lesau, on hopes it will be earmarked as the next vehicle for ex-Burford chief executive Nick Lesau, edged forward 0.5p to 3.25p.

Paramount, the revamped pubs chain, rolled out the day's profit warning, falling 6p to 22.5p.

Hazlewood, the food group, firmed 2p to 136.5p. John Marshall at stockbroker MeePierson suggests there is scope for a significant re-rating over the next two years.

He sees profits this year coming out at £42m with £45m next year.

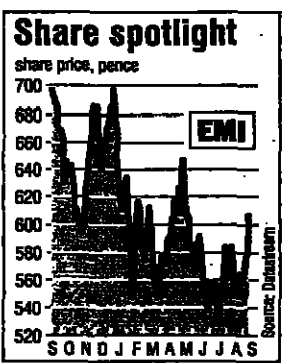
Rank, the leisure group rumoured to be in the sights of the Bass brewing group, shaded to 352p. Stockbroker Charterhouse Tilney is negative. It has downgraded its profits forecast for next year by £20m to £36m and says the shares should be sold.

### TAKING STOCK

Late excitement at Era, the struggling retailing chain. A chunk of shares, probably most of the Scottish Amicable 7.7 per cent stake, went through just as the market was closing, arousing hopes of a bid. A shake-up is under way and disposals are expected. The shares held at 4p against the 3p of the suspected ScotAm deal.

Premiere, the jobs agency opening in Dublin today and with nearly 30 branches in Britain, lifted interim profits from £210,000 to £319,000; around £1.1m against £961,000 seems likely for the year. The shares, floated at 133p, rose 3p to 162.5p.

American Port Services rose 8.5p to 186p, a peak. The company looks vulnerable to a bid. Aggressive Jacobs Holdings sits menacingly on 6.5 per cent.



| 12 week             | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|---------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Alcoholic Beverages |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200              | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200              | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200              | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200              | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week         | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|-----------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Banks, Merchant |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200          | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200          | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200          | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200          | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week       | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|---------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Banks, Retail |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200        | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200        | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200        | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200        | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week               | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Breweries Pubs & Rest |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200                | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200                | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200                | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200                | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week               | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Building/Construction |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200                | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200                | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200                | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200                | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week               | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|-----------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Building/Construction |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200                | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200                | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200                | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200                | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week   | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|-----------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Chemicals |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200    | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200    | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200    | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200    | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week   | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|-----------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Chemicals |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200    | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200    | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200    | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200    | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week   | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|-----------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Chemicals |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200    | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200    | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200    | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200    | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week        | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|----------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Food Producers |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week        | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|----------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Food Producers |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week        | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|----------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Food Producers |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week        | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|----------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Food Producers |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week        | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|----------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Food Producers |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week        | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|----------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Food Producers |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week        | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|----------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Food Producers |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

| 12 week        | High   | Low   | Stock  | Price  | Chg  | YTD    | PER    | Code   |
|----------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|------|--------|--------|--------|
| Food Producers |        |       |        |        |      |        |        |        |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 40 200         | 100.00 | 95.00 | Alstom | 100.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |

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       |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |   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|-------|------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---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| 72.28 | Tu 04.12.1 | 65.38 | 10.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 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## MacLaurin fails to break down barrier

The decision of the counties to reject the most radical of the proposals for changes to English cricket was not a surprise, Derek Pringle, Cricket Correspondent, believes that the plans failed to address the game's problems

Most of the players who sanctioned change wanted it. The chairman of the ECB, Lord MacLaurin, wanted it, and according to those convinced of the game's decline, cricket wanted it. Crucially, however, 12 of the 19 votes of the First Class Forum, the ones who could actually implement such a thing, did not agree, and cricket's Brave New World of a two-division championship has ended up as afternoon tea as usual.

As expected it was probably an "us and them" vote, with counties like Lancashire, Surrey, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire - those six who own Test match grounds - likely to have voted for two divisions, while the others opposed it. Instead, an "all play all" championship with increased prize money remains, the only change being the addition of a knock-out "Super Cup" for the top eight, to replace the Benson and Hedges Cup. This is in addition to a two-division National One-day League and an expanded "FA Cup-style" Natwest Trophy.

In those who have dealt with the counties either as players or as members of the media your correspondent is twice

blessed, or cursed, depending on your outlook, the outcome is not that surprising. Neither of the two more radical proposals, the ECB's three-division system or the two divisions, really provided a vastly superior model to the current status quo.

From the moment they were made public, the baseball-style conferences were always going to be a non-starter. Any system that can allow a team to win far fewer games than their closest rival and still be champions must be flawed. As for the proposed 25-match one-day league, and for all its potential money-making largesse, the words tedious and tiresome come to mind, with bits and pieces players becoming a priority rather than an rarity.

Of course two divisions would probably have shaken some of the complacency out of cricket. There are too many soft games of cricket, but tougher scraps over promotion and relegation are unlikely to attract both younger and larger crowds or improve the lot of the England side. In case it matters, no one watches Sheffield Shield

cricket, or Ranji Trophy cricket, or Red Stripe Cup cricket, and they still turn out decent Test cricketers. Let's face it, county cricket is essentially a game followed in the media.

It is a difficult act to balance, but while the best need rest, the rest need better cricket. Twelve years ago, Essex's overseas player was a masterful batsman

called Ken McEwan. Brought up on South Africa's Currie Cup, McEwan actually preferred county cricket as it gave him more innings in the middle. Contrast that with the way most bowlers feel, and you begin to realise the difficult scope of Lord MacLaurin's task.

In fact, a pepping-up of the championship with promotion

and relegation would place even more pressure on our Test players to serve two masters.

Solutions can only hope to be found once an elite squad is contracted to the ECB, and players like Darren Gough and Dominic Cork - who have missed far too much recent Test cricket through injury - do not feel obliged to play for their counties.

Although he was upbeat about the outcome of his meeting at the press conference afterwards - after all, the majority of the "Raising the Standard" blueprint was in fact accepted - Lord MacLaurin must surely be miffed that changes to the county game, the apex of the ECB pyramid, have failed. Despite his claims that the incre-

mental change of evolution and not revolution has been started, many will wonder whether his position as chairman of the ECB is still tenable.

Persuasive though he is, MacLaurin has been unable to reach into the private fiefdoms that dominate the county game. Having said earlier that he would not tolerate inertia, he has failed to move, by more than a smidgen, the entrenched rituals of county cricket.

It has been, by common consent, a thankless task. The issues are complex and deep-seated, and not easily solvable by mere structural changes. Improving the competitiveness of the England team was apparently the original *raison d'être* for the blueprint. In the ensuing muddle that has been lost sight of. Let us hope it can be put right by winning the 1999 World Cup.

## Inzamam confronts barracker

The sight of a leading Pakistani player armed with a bat striding into the crowd to confront a spectator, whose abuse and barracking had been amplified by a megaphone, was the unwelcome highlight of the Sharjah Cup in Toronto on Sunday.

Play was held up for 37 minutes when Inzamam ul-Haq took drastic action after being subjected to personal and religious abuse while fielding on the boundary during the match against India.

The 27-year-old Inzamam marched into the stands, picking up a bat en route, to face the spectator. A section of the 4,000-strong crowd went wild, throwing bottles and other debris on to the ground. Play was halted while Inzamam was escorted away and the teams retreated to their dressing-rooms.

The reaction of the International Cricket Council was to find the Test batsman guilty of "conduct unbecoming an international cricket player and for bringing the game into disrepute". He has been suspended for the next two cup matches - tomorrow and Saturday - and will be suspended for a third match if he misbehaves again before the end of the year.

"He's a wonderful batsman, but I don't know how good a boxer he is," Geoff Boycott, the TV commentator and former England batsman, said.

For the record, India won the second of the one-day games by seven wickets and lead the five-match series 2-0.



A new dawn for English cricket? The sun rising yesterday over the St Lawrence Ground at Canterbury, Kent's headquarters

Peter Jay

## 'We're in the biggest mess ever' says Botham

The former England captain Ian Botham led a chorus of disapproval in response to the decision by the chairman of the first-class counties to reject Lord MacLaurin's proposals for restructuring the county game, and not to embrace a two-division championship involving promotion and relegation.

"It's a terrible day for English cricket," Botham said. "The people who have made this decision I can only think have made it for their own clubs. What's going to happen is there's going to be a breakdown of maybe eight of the top sides - possibly the seven or eight who wanted to play two divisions. "I think we're in the biggest mess we've been in. We had the

chance to put it right. But these people live in their little ivory towers. The biggest problem is that they think that the game is for the members. It's not. It's for the whole country."

Matthew Fleming, the Kent all-rounder and chairman of the Professional Cricketers' Association, said: "I am disappointed. When the PCA did a

questionnaire of all the players, 75 per cent of them voted for a two-divisional championship and as such I have to say this is a decision which fudges the issue. There is a lot of momentum and now is the time to change. I didn't think there was an option for no change and as far as I am concerned this is no change."

Jim Cumbes, Lancashire's

acting chief executive, said: "As a club who has supported two divisions, we were very disappointed with the vote. We thought there was everything to gain and nothing to lose by going for two divisions to make the game more competitive and of more interest. It's disappointing to say the least that we have not made any progress."

## PHILIPS



Today we publish the latest results of The Independent Fantasy Football League. The player scores are calculated on all games played up to and including September 14th. The league table includes all scores played until September 8th.

Every time one of your players score you get four points. There are four points for a keeper or a defender every time their team keeps a clean sheet. If a player scores the winning goal, i.e. if there is a one goal difference in the scoreline, the player scoring the final goal for the winning team is awarded 1 bonus point awarded in addition to standard goal related points. Each successful Assist, a pass judged by our experts to lead directly to a goal, will give a player 3 points. The opinion of our experts on the matter is final. Each player selected and starting a game will be awarded one point.

If a player is given a Yellow Card they lose 1 point, if a player is given a Red Card they lose 3 points. Own goals, either scored or conceded, do not count. The Premiership Manager that you choose will be awarded 3 points if their real-life team wins, 1 point is awarded if they draw and no points are given if they lose.

Updated player scores and league tables will be published every Tuesday in *The Independent* and repeated the following Sunday in the *Independent on Sunday*.

| HOW TO SCORE |    |                     |    |
|--------------|----|---------------------|----|
| player score | 4  | clean sheet         | 4  |
| winning goal | 1  | successful assist   | 3  |
| own goal     | -1 | yellow card         | -1 |
| red card     | -3 | manager's team wins | 3  |
| draw         | 1  | loss                | 0  |

## INDEPENDENT FANTASY FOOTBALL

| LEAGUE TABLE |                     |                                |        | OVERALL SCORE CALCULATED ON MATCHES PLAYED FROM 8 AUGUST - 14 SEPTEMBER |                     |                                |        |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------|---|---------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| POS          | NAME                | TEAM                           | POINTS | POS   | NAME                | TEAM                           | POINTS |
| 1            | Mr A Mitchell       | The Eye For It                 | 269    | 1   | Mr A Mitchell       | The Eye For It                 | 269    |
| 2            | Mr Mike Evans       | I've Started But Will I Finish | 265    | 2   | Mr Mike Evans       | I've Started But Will I Finish | 265    |
| 3            | Mr John Cox         | Millers A Team                 | 262    | 3   | Mr John Cox         | Millers A Team                 | 262    |
| 4            | Mr Mike Evans       | Over The Moon Brian            | 260    | 4   | Mr Mike Evans       | Over The Moon Brian            | 260    |
| 5            | Mr Mike Evans       | Millers D Team                 | 257    | 5   | Mr Mike Evans       | Millers D Team                 | 257    |
| 6            | Mr Chris King       | Seeking Victory                | 257    | 6   | Mr Chris King       | Seeking Victory                | 257    |
| 7            | Mr Phil Tufnell     | Pin Ups 4                      | 257    | 7   | Mr Phil Tufnell     | Pin Ups 4                      | 257    |
| 8            | Mr David Evans      | Outing End Old Blues           | 257    | 8   | Mr David Evans      | Outing End Old Blues           | 257    |
| 9            | Mr John Cox         | Southern FC                    | 257    | 9   | Mr John Cox         | Southern FC                    | 257    |
| 10           | Mr Mike Evans       | Millers E Team                 | 256    | 10  | Mr Mike Evans       | Millers E Team                 | 256    |
| 11           | Mr Ian Bolls        | Wembley Bundlers               | 255    | 11  | Mr Ian Bolls        | Wembley Bundlers               | 255    |
| 12           | Mr A Wingrove       | Tony's Braces                  | 255    | 12  | Mr A Wingrove       | Tony's Braces                  | 255    |
| 13           | Mr Tom Lyons        | Blues' Emotions                | 255    | 13  | Mr Tom Lyons        | Blues' Emotions                | 255    |
| 14           | Mr Chris Sinker     | Berkham United                 | 253    | 14  | Mr Chris Sinker     | Berkham United                 | 253    |
| 15           | Mr Stuart Scott     | The Dream Team                 | 253    | 15  | Mr Stuart Scott     | The Dream Team                 | 253    |
| 16           | Mr B Srai           | The Unpredictables             | 252    | 16  | Mr B Srai           | The Unpredictables             | 252    |
| 17           | Mr Mike Evans       | Millers B Team                 | 252    | 17  | Mr Mike Evans       | Millers B Team                 | 252    |
| 18           | Mr Iwan P Bicknell  | Flash In The Pan               | 252    | 18  | Mr Iwan P Bicknell  | Flash In The Pan               | 252    |
| 19           | Mr David Aston      | Billy Boys 2nd II              | 252    | 19  | Mr David Aston      | Billy Boys 2nd II              | 252    |
| 20           | Mr Abdul Choudhri   | Nickies 9th II                 | 251    | 20  | Mr Abdul Choudhri   | Nickies 9th II                 | 251    |
| 21           | Mr A Mitchell       | Nursery PK Rovers              | 251    | 21  | Mr A Mitchell       | Nursery PK Rovers              | 251    |
| 22           | Mr David Baker      | XPS Rules                      | 251    | 22  | Mr David Baker      | XPS Rules                      | 251    |
| 23           | Mr Ian Down         | The Ruffus                     | 250    | 23  | Mr Ian Down         | The Ruffus                     | 250    |
| 24           | Mr Iwan P Bicknell  | Mambo Mambo                    | 250    | 24  | Mr Iwan P Bicknell  | Mambo Mambo                    | 250    |
| 25           | Mr David Aston      | Billy Boys 3rd II              | 250    | 25  | Mr David Aston      | Billy Boys 3rd II              | 250    |
| 26           | Mr Mike Evans       | Simply The Best                | 250    | 26  | Mr Mike Evans       | Simply The Best                | 250    |
| 27           | Mr B Srai           | Enduring Image                 | 250    | 27  | Mr B Srai           | Enduring Image                 | 250    |
| 28           | Mr Mike Mitchell    | The Green Team                 | 250    | 28  | Mr Mike Mitchell    | The Green Team                 | 250    |
| 29           | Mr David Baker      | Deja Vu                        | 250    | 29  | Mr David Baker      | Deja Vu                        | 250    |
| 30           | Mr Michael Rickard  | Aller Lamberg                  | 250    | 30  | Mr Michael Rickard  | Aller Lamberg                  | 250    |
| 31           | Mr David Edmondson  | Edmo United                    | 250    | 31  | Mr David Edmondson  | Edmo United                    | 250    |
| 32           | Mr Peter Cridland   | PDCT                           | 250    | 32  | Mr Peter Cridland   | PDCT                           | 250    |
| 33           | Mr Roland Dunn      | 12 Angry Men                   | 250    | 33  | Mr Roland Dunn      | 12 Angry Men                   | 250    |
| 34           | Mr Jonathan Furness | Red Star Silver                | 250    | 34  | Mr Jonathan Furness | Red Star Silver                | 250    |
| 35           | Mr David Baker      | Dead Beat                      | 250    | 35  | Mr David Baker      | Dead Beat                      | 250    |
| 36           | Mr T Parker         | A Summer Time Breeze           | 250    | 36  | Mr T Parker         | A Summer Time Breeze           | 250    |
| 37           | Mr David Baker      | Dead Heat                      | 250    | 37  | Mr David Baker      | Dead Heat                      | 250    |
| 38           | Mr Jennifer Moore   | Jen's Jumping Giants           | 250    | 38  | Mr Jennifer Moore   | Jen's Jumping Giants           | 250    |



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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

| Age Group | U.S. should take action (%) | U.S. should not take action (%) |
|-----------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 18-29     | 85                          | 15                              |
| 30-49     | 82                          | 18                              |
| 50-69     | 88                          | 12                              |
| 70+       | 92                          | 8                               |

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## Juninho leads the Madrid revolutionaries

Atletico Madrid, who entertain Leicester in the Uefa Cup tonight, have always played in the shadow cast by their internationally famous neighbours Real Madrid. However, the team are hoping that the acquisition of Juninho from Middlesbrough will prove the catalyst for a change. Phil Show reports from Madrid

Juninho's adoring public in Middlesbrough would have a surprise if they saw the stage for which he forsook the English game. One of the most striking things about the Vicente Calderon Stadium, where Atletico Madrid's £11m man renews hostilities with Leicester City tonight, is how similar its setting is to the Riverside Stadium.

Atletico's home stands in the old industrial quarter of the Spanish capital, even closer to the murky waters of the Manzanares than Boro are to the Tees. And instead of the ICI plant which dominates the skyline in his previous habitat, Juninho now passes a massive gasworks as he drives to the ground.

Ah yes, driving. The roads which service the Riverside scarcely compare with the six-lane Madrid ring road that roars directly beneath the Vicente Calderon's main stand, parallel to the touchline, around the clock. When the lorries, cars and coaches are moving thick and fast, it is said that Juninho's new constituency in the upper tier can feel the floor gently vibrating.

Despite this unique feature, the Leicester fans queuing for tickets yesterday would have recognised it as a fairly typical inner-city stadium, albeit one with 57,000 seats. The shock, at least with regard to Juninho, is that the diminutive Brazilian was so clearly born to grace the game's great arenas: Maracana, San Siro, Nou Camp, Old Trafford, et al.

At the risk of offending Atletico's notoriously volatile president and owner,

Jesus Gil, even their most ardent followers would be pushed to justify the inclusion of this venue on such a list.

Yet the very presence of *El Niño*, "The Little One", is proof of Gil's 10-year crusade, nay obsession, to make Atletico one of Europe's great clubs. Likewise a summer outlay of £38m which also secured Christian Vieri for £12.5m, plus the much vaunted Jordi Lardin from Espanyol, and three others.

Atletico have occasionally flirted with the status enjoyed by Milan, Ajax and company. In 1962 they became the second-ever holders of the Cup-Winners' Cup, having disposed of Leicester, by strange coincidence, in the second round. Twelve years on there was a Champions' Cup final, where they were well beaten by Bayern Munich. But their image has always suffered by a very parochial comparison.

Real Madrid, with all their European Cups, glamour and popularity, give a fresh twist to the topical notion of neighbours from hell. Whatever Atletico achieve under Gil and his estimable coach, the former Luton player Raddy Antic, they appear destined to live with the knowledge that Real will always be the bigger noise.

The contrast between the clubs' grounds reveals much about their respective identities and place in the national and international hierarchy. Real's Bernabeu Stadium lies on a salubrious thoroughfare called the Castellana, and does not look out of place among the museums, mansions, trees, lawns and monuments.

The relationship between Real and Atletico can be likened to that of the Manchester clubs. Real's high profile fostering a contempt bordering on paranoia among Atletico's fans. They claim, for instance, that the true *Madridenos* do not support Real. Derby games take on a meaning which transcends local enmity. "If we beat them," Gil claimed before one, "there'll be a nationwide orgasm."

Atletico, though, have tended to beat Real more often than City defeat United (not difficult) and while Maine Road has



Focal point: the new Atletico will be 'a cyclone with Juninho at its centre', according to the club's president

Empics

become synonymous with failure, Antic led Atletico to their first Spanish double in 1996. The subsequent anti-climax, both at domestic level and in the Champions' League, would normally have cost him his job. Gil hired and fired 27 coaches or managers in his first seven years, including Ron Atkinson.

However, in the 47-year-old Antic, it is as if he has found someone he trusts to challenge Real and Barcelona. That Antic was previously sacked by Real doubtless makes him a kindred spirit. Atletico's recent spending spree drew both on the fortune Gil has accumulated in property and finance — he is also mayor of Marbella, with the resort's name emblazoned on their shirts —

and the television money with which Spanish football is currently awash.

Antic watched Juninho play four times in nine days for Middlesbrough last spring, including the Coca-Cola Cup final against Leicester. "What I saw was a little man with a big heart who never wilted," he said. "We will build a team around Juninho but I want him to have a free role. With players of his calibre, tactics can be counter-productive."

The new Atletico could not have faced a sterner test than to visit Real in the opening fixture. Juninho scored in a 1-1 draw, and looked sharper still as Valladolid were vanquished 5-0. Some pundits claimed Atletico were about to sweep all before them. The notion was disabused by Saturday's

1-0 loss at Bilbao. A late sitter squandered by Juninho offered Martin O'Neill's spies encouraging evidence of his mortality.

Gil, who had pronounced the restructured side "a cyclone with Juninho at its centre", saw it as a temporary setback. For Antic's sake it had better be: his boss once described a Real player as "about as welcome as a piranha fish in a bidet", though he could have been talking about himself.

While averting the disappointment that Steve Claridge inflicted on Juninho in the Coca-Cola Cup final will be of no concern to the president, a big win would provide reassurance that Antic is taking Atletico in the desired direction. Tonight Leicester; tomorrow, if Gil gets his way, the Real world.

## Kamark the man for the main job

Whenever he broke away to join his team mates in the morning sun at Atletico Madrid's training centre, Pontus Kamark was called back for another interview with the Spanish media. It is not every day, after all, that you meet the man who had Brazil's pocket rocket in his pocket.

Leicester's manager, Martin O'Neill, would not confirm that Kamark would be instructed to shadow Juninho again in tonight's Uefa Cup first round, first leg match with Atletico. But as the versatile Swede marked him out of the Coca-Cola Cup final against Middlesbrough, it will be a surprise if he is not. The difference, as O'Neill pointed out, is that Atletico have more players who can assume the creative mantle if their driving force is subdued.

"There's a danger of concentrating too much on Juninho because he's the one we know," he said. "By the end of the two games I'm sure we'll know other Atletico players equally well."

He has seen Atletico twice, once in the flesh and is under no illusions. "At times they build up slowly, then it suddenly becomes explosive," he said, as much in admiration as in trepidation.

Quite what Raddy Antic, his opposite number, has made of Leicester is harder to gauge. He had them watched in the defeat at Sheffield and in Saturday's rout of Tottenham. "That was a heck of an improvement," O'Neill said. "If Hillsborough had been our last match, they wouldn't have expected many problems with us," O'Neill said.

He believed Atletico would be "very wary" of Emile Heskey. Antic will warn his team about Leicester's indomitable spirit, but must be confident that their high-speed touch play will find a way through, or round, a defence noted for aerial power rather than mobility.

Thirty six years ago, Gordon Banks saved a penalty but Atletico beat Leicester 2-0 here to advance in the Cup-Winners' Cup. In 1980, John Robertson, O'Neill's No 2, won the European Cup for Nottingham Forest in Madrid. Two years later, O'Neill thought he had scored for Northern Ireland in the World Cup at tonight's venue, only for the referee to rule otherwise and France to win comfortably.

If history is to repeat itself, both will settle for Kamark shackling Juninho and Leicester upsetting the odds once more.

Phil Show

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# Pontypridd face expulsion after bar-room brawl

The relationship between the great rugby powers of Wales and France lay in tatters yesterday, after a bar-room brawl that put three Brive internationals in hospital and three Pontypridd players in court. Chris Hewett and Adam Szreter report on a body-blow to the game's image.

The punch-up on the field was bad enough, but the Wild West-style saloon brawl that succeeded it was infinitely worse. Pontypridd, roundly accused as the instigators of Sunday night's bloody excesses in the centre of Brive, will be called to account by Heineken Cup officials this week and may well find themselves thrown out of the competition in disgrace.

Dale McIntosh, the Ponty No 8, Phil John, the Welsh club's hooker, and Andre Barnard, a recent midfield recruit from South Africa, appeared before a French prosecutor yesterday afternoon following a spectacular free-for-all between rival players and supporters in the Bar Le Toulzac, a popular watering hole situated in the ironically named Place-de-Patriotes Martyrs. The three players, accused of "violence and degradation", are to be brought before an investigating judge, and in all 12 Pontypridd players may end up being questioned.

The team had been due to fly out of Brive yesterday at

9.30am, but at 8am the police arrived. The chartered plane later left without the players who, wisely, spent the rest of the day in their hotel.

McIntosh had been sent off as a result of his role in the original mass set-to in the 26th minute of Sunday's game, which Brive, the reigning European champions, won by a point on the back of a disputed injury time try. The abrasive New Zealander antagonised the home crowd by smiling mockingly and giving them "victorious" thumbs-up signs as he headed for the dressing-room and was later suspended for 30 days. Lionel Mallier, the Brive flanker dismissed for his part in the same incident, received an identical punishment.

Depressingly, the matter did not rest there. Eye witnesses said a number of Brive players were drinking in the bar, jointly owned by Jean-Marie Soubira, a former player, when the Welsh contingent arrived. Something approaching bedlam promptly ensued and when the dust finally settled – or, rather, the police tear gas evaporated – M Soubira was left to contemplate the extensive damage to his property caused by flying bottles and furniture.

Philippe Carbonneau, the Brive captain who had incensed the Welshmen by openly baring Stuart Roy during the match, needed hospital treatment for a broken nose, as did Christophe Lamaison, his colleague in the French Test side. A third international, David Venditti, suffered a bite wound to his hand and was also treated.

Speaking to French radio,

Carbonneau said the Pontypridd group "started to bother us, hit us, then after that it was crazy. Before the police came we were really afraid." Lamaison ruled out any possibility of Brive travelling to Sardis Road for the return match on Saturday week. "It would be impossible for us," he said.

Brive may be spared the trouble of making that particular stand. The directors of European Rugby Cup Ltd, the high-powered body established to oversee the Heineken Cup and safeguard its growing reputation as the brightest jewel in the crown of northern hemisphere club rugby, have demanded written reports from both managements. The ultimate sanction is stark and simple: expulsion, not only from this season's competition but indefinitely.

Roger Pickering, the tournament director, stuck firmly to the diplomatic line yesterday, insisting that no assumptions could be made until the full facts had been made available. But the French were in no mood to hold back. Bernard Lapsset, the president of the country's rugby federation, called for Pontypridd to be banned from the tournament and any proven ringleader to be excluded from the Heineken Cup for life.

The Welsh Rugby Union was also demanding an explanation from Pontypridd. One WRU source said: "The view here was that Brive were the more culpable in causing the brawl that broke out on the pitch. But the bar incident is something else again. It could hardly be more serious."



Pontypridd's Phil John (No 2) clashes with Brive's Patrick Lubungu in Sunday's abrasive Heineken Cup match

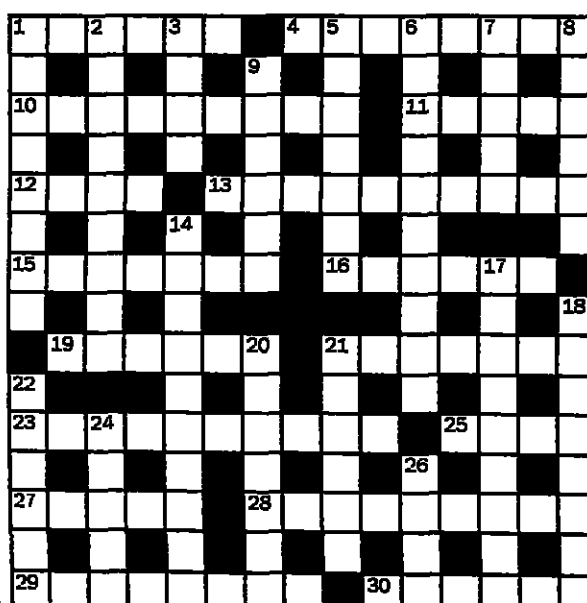
AFP

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3485 Thursday 16 September

By Andrew

Monday's Solution



1. COSMOPOLITAN  
2. TITANIC  
3. RAIN  
4. YET  
5. U.S. AIR  
6. EVEN  
7. SMIRK  
8. MOOD  
9. O.G.P.A.  
10. A.B.I.E.  
11. NIELSEN  
12. LEANDER  
13. SQUALLID  
14. GORP  
15. EDDA  
16. AFFIX  
17. USER  
18. A.E.R.E.M.M.Y.  
19. VERSION  
20. EMIRATE  
21. E.G.N.C.R.N.I.D.  
22. CONGREGATION

### ACROSS

- 1 University sport played in a drugged state (6)  
4 Engage in totting, namely get one's own back (8)  
10 I cater badly, feeding loaves a source of infection (9)  
11 One captured by the force is a robber (5)  
12 Take off some wood (4)  
13 Strongly flavoured tripe's cooked for Aaron? (4,6)  
15 Good miller running round his distance seen to shine only a bit (7)  
16 About and recognised without King that's fame (6)  
19 Means of conveying a bit of information to Cyprus (6)  
21 Roman's a disgusting, rowing person (7)  
23 Rocking herself quietly, cutting nothing of this food? (10)

### DOWN

- 25 Not far in Switzerland (4)  
27 Quiet afterthought leads to complaint (5)  
28 Long sentence goes fast for buoyant supporters (9)  
29 Could be Leo has leading actor to engage (4,4)  
30 Certainly not rickety home for horses (6)  
1 One's wise to secure vulnerable boat from deliberate damage (8)  
2 Continually taking cover off to conserve energy (9)  
3 Do as told by old Turkish governor (4)  
5 Perhaps mothballs unfinished work to limit American power (7)  
6 Change restricts entire potential of animal doctor (10)

- 7 Sound sense about one (5)  
8 Exhausted from being involved in brief fetes (6)  
9 In two ways that is right for official (6)  
14 A person's comprehending use in organisation (10)  
17 Wife warning Liberal about second feminist movement (5,1,3)  
18 Lecherous and not pursued, we hear (8)  
20 It's reported you will shortly register for winter fuel (4,3)  
21 Some gloss, if yielding, needs to harden (6)  
22 Your old music for organ (6)  
24 Doctor goes to Rugby to a dance (5)  
26 Nothing was effective as a notice of death (4)

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## 'Pandemonium. The Welsh were like animals'

A brawl in a French town has left the rugby world shocked by the actions of some of the players involved. Adam Szreter visits the bar in Brive where sporting passions erupted into violence

Marty Bruno, the owner of the Bar Le Toulzac in Brive town centre, was surveying the damage the morning after the night before. Broken chairs and broken glass still littered the floor, and as we walked through towards a table at the back of the room Bruno pointed towards a spot on the wall where blood stains were clearly visible.

Bruno, a former Brive player, opened the bar less than six

months ago, and it is there that the town's rugby players now go for a drink after a match. Bruno may be an unfortunate name given the nature of the proceedings, but he insisted that he, for one, was not throwing any punches.

"I was behind the bar protecting my head so I didn't see everything," he said, "but they were throwing chairs and tables at the Brive players and at the walls. The police arrived but they couldn't do anything."

"One of the Welsh players tried to intervene but he was thumped by one of his own team-mates, and if two or three of the Brive players hadn't stepped in to protect the injured ones, someone could have got killed. I've never seen anything like it, except on television and at the cinema." Outside, the fighting had spilled over on to

the small terrace and there was a long trail of blood.

Lionel Mallier, sent off along with Pontypridd's Dale McIntosh during Sunday's ill-tempered European Cup match, admitted he was fighting again with McIntosh in the bar. "When they first arrived I



Philippe Carbonneau after treatment to his broken nose

sensed trouble but Phil John [a Ponty player] bought me a drink and for 10 minutes it was OK. But then there was a flare-up between McIntosh and [Philippe] Carbonneau and all hell broke loose. It was pandemonium. The Welsh were like animals."

Brive, a sleepy town of 50,000 people, 150 miles north-east of Toulouse, is famous only by association with the French president Jacques Chirac, who was born 20 miles away, and now for its rugby.

A local taxi driver explained that he had heard of the trouble and was not surprised the police had been unable to deal with it. "We have very little crime in Brive and consequently there are very few policemen. They will have had no experience of this kind of thing."

Covert proceedings were

taking place at the local gendarmerie all day. Having made no arrests the previous evening, they started off yesterday with a dawn raid on the Pontypridd team's hotel, taking five players away for questioning.

Information was sketchy, and the police were reluctant to talk to any foreign media. Eventually, when the players came out of the police station to be taken to the local prosecuting magistrate, it was through a rear exit to avoid the fearsome sight of six journalists and two photographers.

Just around the corner from the Bar Le Toulzac itself, in the Rue de Paris, the Heineken Cup sits proudly in the window of the club shop. Whether Brive will win it again this year is hard to say. For now, they will just be hoping they are allowed to defend it with some honour.

## Cricket's establishment opts to maintain the status quo

The first-class counties and the MCC have decided against making changes to the way the County Championship operates. Yesterday they rejected a plan to create two divisions, but accepted a similar scheme for a National League of 50-over matches on Sundays. David Llewellyn reports

The ashes of cricket's revolution were swept under the carpet at Lord's yesterday. The bold talk of radical changes resulted in a radical status quo. The County Championship, which most had agreed needed beefing up to help produce more competitive cricketers, is to stay the same.

A meeting between the England and Wales Cricket Board and the First Class forum, which comprises the 18 first-class counties and the MCC voted 12-7 in favour of maintaining the all-play-all

structure which has existed for more than 100 years.

The incentives to make it more competitive are financial. The top eight counties in next year's Championship will qualify for a Super Cup the year after, when this country plays host to the 1999 World Cup. The format of the Super Cup will be 50 overs and will, in effect, be the Benson & Hedges Cup from the quarter-final stages. The new two division, 50-over, one-day National League with promotion and relegation – three clubs up and

three down – will start in 1999, with the counties' positions in next season's AXA Life League determining the First or Second Division of the new tournament.

The bottom four in the Championship next year face being drawn against one another in the following year's revised NatWest Trophy, instead of having the chance of playing a Minor County.

Lord MacLaurin's initial report "Raising the Standard" had suggested a three conference system for the Champion-

ship with a complicated fixture schedule and a series of play-offs. Yesterday his Lordship, who is the chairman of the ECB said: "The three conference [set-up] was a move towards more competitive cricket, but the First Class counties asked us to look again."

Lord MacLaurin then conceded: "The conference was not a starter. I would have gone for a two divisional structure and maybe in my lifetime we will get there. We will give this system three years."

Derek Pringle, page 28

# Ian Wright Wright Wright

PAOK Salonika vs Arsenal live from 6:30 tonight on 5  
Followed by Bordeaux vs Aston Villa from 9:20.

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